Columbus
MONTHLY
February 1992 • $1.95

School board '92:
Chaos or calm?

The new boom in art glass

Polaris, giant of the north

CHEAP EATS

Dining out on a budget

42 places for good food at modest prices

THIS SPORTING SEASON

Jacobson's

A February That Can't Be *Beat!*

"Maria" & "Luis" Sing the Songs of "Sesame Street"
Saturday, February 1; Ohio Theatre, 2 pm
Sonia Manzano & Emilio Delgado, known to millions of kids as "live" stars of "Sesame Street," perform a heatwarming musical show for youngsters and their families.
Sponsored by Wendy's, Warner Cable & Sunny 95

"Maria" & "Luis"

Rodgers & Hammerstein's Lee Roy Reams

The Sound of Rodgers & Hammerstein
Friday, February 7; Palace Theatre, 8 pm
From *The Sound of Music, Oklahoma!, Carousel, The King and I,* and *South Pacific,* a treasure trove of timeless melodies brought to life by top-notch actors and actresses of the Broadway music scene!

The triumphant return of
Kodo Drummers of Japan
Tuesday, February 11; Ohio Theatre, 8 pm
"Excitingly varied, marvelously theatrical, fascinating from start to finish, with moments of vivid physical excitement"—*Britain's Sunday Telegraph* "Robust...Ferociously Kinetic" —*The New York Times*

Mazowsze—National Folk Ensemble of Poland
Wednesday, February 12; Ohio Theatre, 8 pm
100 magnificent performers! 1,000 incredible costumes!! "All of the musicals of Broadway put together could not offer the joyous zest, the dancing skill and the wondrous costumes of Mazowsze"—*New York Daily News*

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Kodo Drummers

Mazowsze

Ramsey Lewis & Billy Taylor

Tosca

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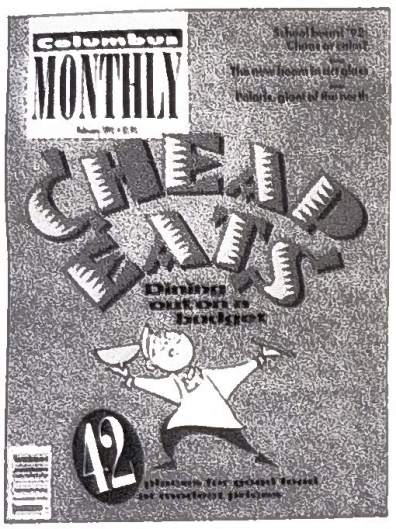
COVER STORY



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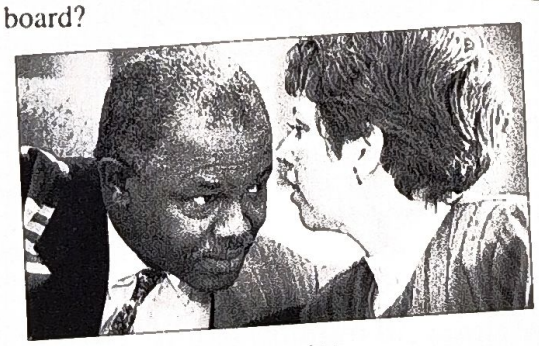

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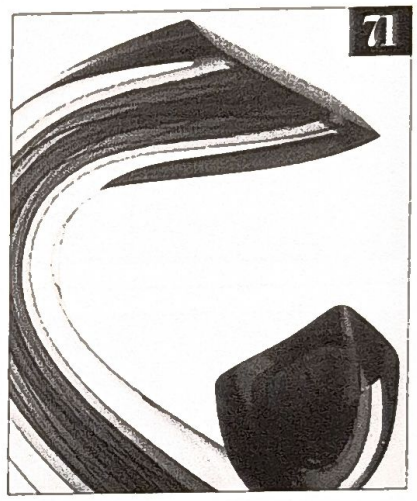

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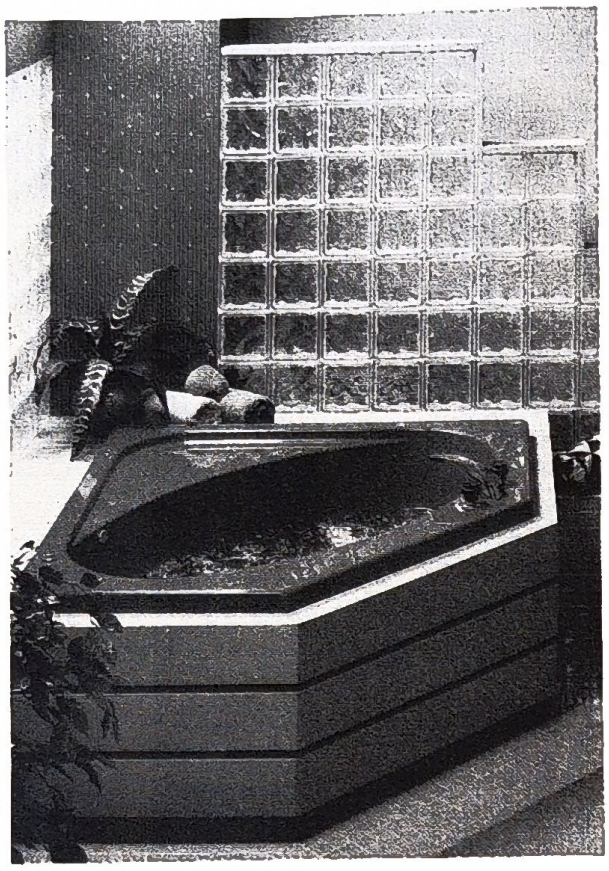

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An artful free-lancer

It's a happy circumstance for us that Jean Kelly decided to broaden her career interests awhile back. Her original Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in painting, drawing and printmaking from Ohio State put her in position for a career in art. One of her first jobs after she left school was at the Columbus Museum of Art—doing publications work and writing. Her job path tilted in the direction of writing and editing, and she went on to be associate editor of a political science journal at OSU. "When I looked back, I saw that my sketchbooks were almost all journals," she says. "There were sketches, but I was thinking verbally." She got a master's degree in journalism at Ohio State, and she's now associate editor of the *Ohio State Alumni Magazine*.

Jean Kelly

We're the beneficiaries of these dual capabilities—a knowledge of and interest in art, and the ability to write well about it. Jean has been free-lancing for us since last spring, and her fourth story appears in this issue. Her first contribution was a story about the Museum's new director of curatorial affairs, Roger Clisby; it appeared in the June issue. In addition to providing a profile of Clisby and a look at the future directions of the Museum, the piece offered good background information on what it is, exactly, that the chief curator of a major museum does. She contributed a preview of the Sirak Collection, the publication of which coincided with the exhibit's opening last October, and then compiled a piece for January on the homes of five Columbus artists. This last was a look at how creators of art live with it, including their own works and those of other artists. Judging by Jean's sampling, each of them lives with it quite differently. This month, she's written about the new popularity of art glass; see page 71.

These last two stories have, in fact, inspired her to add to her own collection. Shown here with her are one of Corbett Reynolds's plaster heads—he and the sculptures were shown in the January artists' homes piece—and a work in glass by Robert Eickholt, mentioned in this month's story.

Although so far her work for us has involved art-related topics, it's likely that Jean will write eventually on other topics as well. We're glad to welcome her and her work to the magazine.

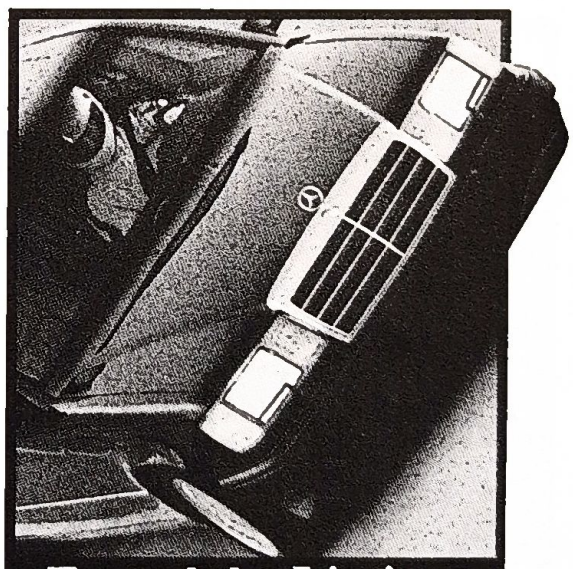
This month's cover story on "Cheap eats" (page 22) examines a side of the city's restaurant scene we've never specifically focused on before.

A lot of the restaurants mentioned come from the experience of our longtime restaurant writer, Jon Christensen. Senior editor Emily Foster assisted, gathering other suggestions from editorial staffers, and these were duly checked out. You might expect that Jon and Emily went through a few bottles of Pepto Bismol over the course of this assignment, but, in fact, only a few of the places visited had to be eliminated because of dubious quality. The value of good recommendations, I suppose.

We ran into one snag, which was a language problem in trying to set up the photograph at Twins. Fortunately, Emily located someone fluent in Korean who could translate, and the photo session took place.

Incidentally, we don't claim the list is exhaustive, and we'd be happy to print reader testimonials for other spots, in the way of letters to the editor. Please write.

Lenore Brown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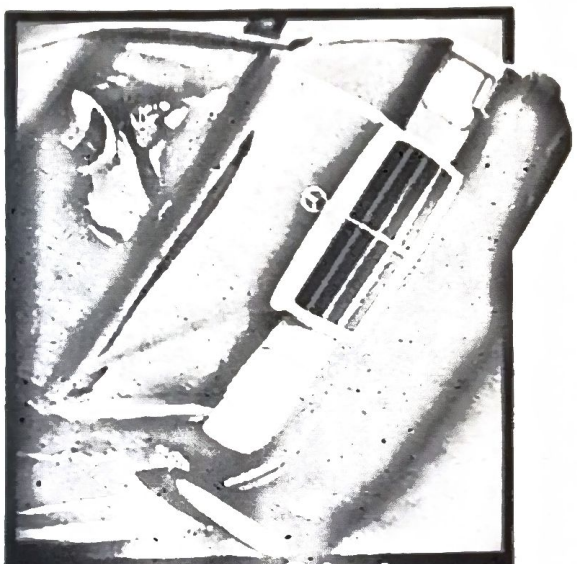

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LETTERS

Day care

Your article "A guide to day care" [December], provided an interesting overview of options available for young children. Of special interest to us was your mention of developmental programs "emphasizing hands-on experiential learning in a culturally diverse environment."

Increasingly, parents and educators appreciate the merits of such programs, which lay an excellent foundation for future academic success. In 1988, with grants from the Columbus and Ingram-White Castle foundations, Columbus Montessori Education Center (CMEC) initiated a two-year Teacher Education Program in order to help meet the need for more teachers skilled in these techniques. Graduates are eligible for a pre-primary credential from the American Montessori Society (AMS), which is a nationally recognized teaching credential.

Eighty years ago, Maria Montessori, the first female physician in Italy, pioneered these child-centered "learn through doing" teaching methods. We believe this philosophy develops the unique potential of each child, and are pleased that parents and professionals in Central Ohio are discovering its benefits.

Linda Neugebauer
Administrator
Linda S. Kass
President, board of trustees
Columbus Montessori Education Center

Thank you very much for including Au Pair in America in your article "A guide to day care" in the December issue.

I would like to make a correction regarding the cost of the Au Pair in America program. The host family's cost will be about $170 a week, excluding the air fare to Columbus from *New York*, and *not* Europe. Roundtrip air fare from Europe to New York is included in the host family's yearly program fee.

Megan Evans Daniels
Au Pair in America

Sex

I enjoyed reading Emily Foster's article, "Sex: The new rules of the game," in the December issue. However, I found her choice of verbs annoying in the description of "Jake," a 27-year-old suburban schoolteacher.

Foster writes: "He himself says he is not into the bar scene, doesn't bring home strangers for one-night stands, doesn't go 'on the prowl' for sex. 'I'm not into that scene,' he admits."

Please! The implication is that he has to admit—confess to—moral behavior. How about "he says." Or better still, "says proudly."

Carole Gerber
Upper Arlington

What a wonderful cover for your December issue. I know you must work several months in advance planning the magazine, but didn't anyone realize this would be the December issue on which you chose to put the steamy picture?

While sex is a big issue not to be ignored in this tragic time of AIDS, I feel this issue should have been more in keeping with the season. You could have shown an old picture of downtown Columbus at Christmas—I wouldn't mind.

Leila Carley
Crossville, Tennessee

I have been a subscriber to *Columbus Monthly* for several years; as a student going to school in other cities, I have considered it a valuable link to goings-on in the city I still consider home.

However, the cover of your December issue has prompted me to write this letter. Past issues have featured an athletic supporter and the mostly-bare body of an OSU athlete (and have generated negative reader comment in your "Letters" section); this cover sports the word "SEX" in huge block letters.

Equally attractive covers could easily have been designed around the themes of day-care or the Columbus television news anchors, without resorting to tabloid-style gimmicks.

I suspect there are as many opinions on cover art as there are covers. Nevertheless, I hope that this trend toward sensationalism will dampen down in future issues of your otherwise excellent magazine.

Rob Knauerhase
Urbana, Illinois

TV news wars

Likable? Was that the only adjective you could find for your December article on TV news crews ["Slugging it out in the TV trenches"] to describe the BEST Columbus has, Charlene Brown of Channel 6?

Marilyn Gottier
Powell

Editors' note: See, more recently, the story on Charlene Brown in "People to watch in 1992" in the January issue.

Malpractice insurance

Re: The fine article by Margaret Newkirk that appeared in the December issue ["The high cost of malpractice insurance"].

Who is to blame for the cost of medical malpractice insurance? After 20+ years of property-casualty insurance actuarial experience, I am as perplexed as the next person.

I am somewhat concerned that after 20+ years of insurance experience I have never heard an insurance company claims person mention an anecdote or two about a "meritorious claimant." There must be a few plaintiffs that are entitled to an immediate offer of the insurer's policy limits . . . without the need to retain counsel.

With regard to the litigation explosion, consider the following analogy: If you go into a car dealer and haggle over price, you are a shrewd negotiator. Yet if you reject an insurer's assessment of your coverage document or the insurer's offer related to your damages or pain and suffering, you are abusing the system.

Negotiation is an integral part of every business transaction. In the insurance business, the level playing field seems to be the courtroom.

Joseph L. Petrelli
Consulting actuary
Columbus

Roger Vaughan

As longtime Columbus residents, recently transplanted to Canton, we look forward to receiving each *Columbus Monthly*. It gives us the opportunity to feel somewhat more in touch with old friends.

We noticed that your December, 1991, issue mentioned one old friend of ours, Roger Vaughan, on two separate occasions ["Insider" and "Finale"]. In both instances, the magazine seemed to be quite concerned that terrible things were afoot at the radio station he recently acquired, WWCD.

Given that we spent the better part of the last three years living across the street from Roger, and, more specifically, spent many hours listening to him discuss his radio station ideas, we felt that maybe we were just the people to step up and state for the record that Roger has absolutely no plans to make WWCD an ordinary, mainstream, white-bread radio station.

If Roger is able to make WWCD happen, and he certainly has the drive, passion and business sense to do so, Columbus will have a new first, a radio station that is intelligent, creative and musically diverse. Call it alternative. Call it progressive. Call it eclectic. Call it what you will. Columbus should consider itself very fortunate to have WWCD around (I mean, it could be another oldies station). We, in Canton, are not as lucky.

Lynda and Dean Jollay
Canton

Homes

How very kind of Jill Sandbo to have recalled my name when describing her fireplace [*Homes*: "Goodbye to the drab hearth"]. While I appreciate the mention, her compliment is misplaced.

Too frequently, in the process of understanding the concept the client is trying to convey, the bidding process, the working out of detail and scheduling problems etc., it's forgotten that it's the *field personnel* who are ultimately responsible to make it happen.

We're fortunate to have behind us people who can routinely do the difficult. That brings *me* a great deal of comfort, and makes my job not just enjoyable but fun.

Steve Thomas
Residential sales manager,
Reitter Stucco Inc.

Columbus Day

In the "Columbus History Day—and more" article [Around Columbus—November], the paragraph about Dick Barrett showing a film in the old Port Columbus terminal building, of the train-plane transfer point at Columbus, was a bit incorrect.

To set the record straight, the passengers coming from the east would board a train called the Airway Limited in New York in the evening. They would ride the train overnight to Port Columbus station, where they would cross over to Port Columbus Airport, via a covered walkway, and board a Ford Tri-Motor of Transcontinental Air Transport. They would then fly west to Waynoka, Oklahoma, where they would again transfer to another overnight train to Clovis, New Mexico. There they would board another Ford Tri-Motor and fly west to Glendale, California. The route would be reversed for those coming east, and you would board the train at Columbus for an overnight ride to New York City.

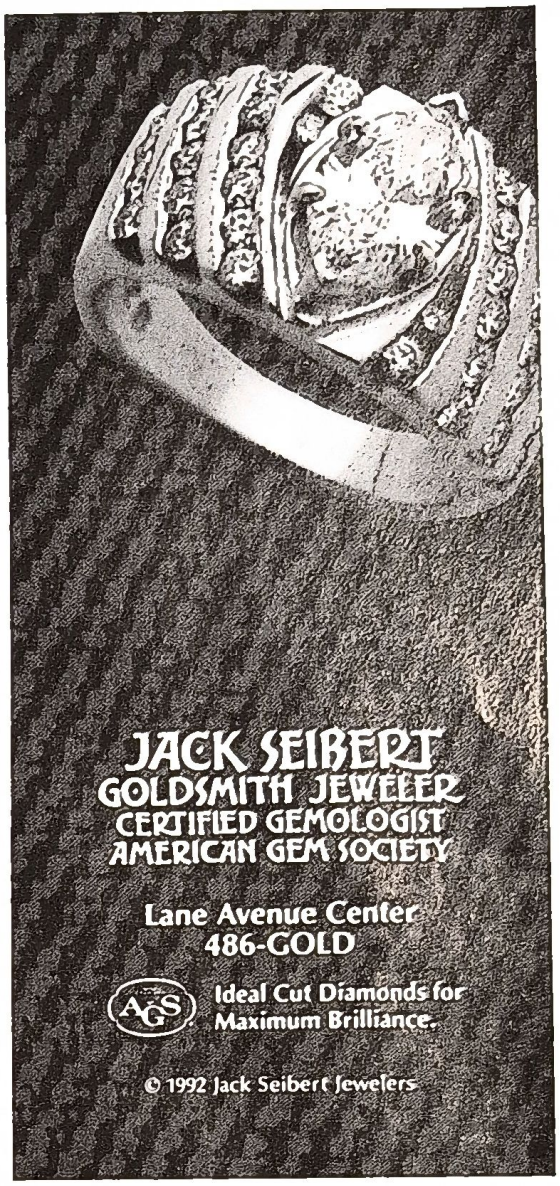
Jim "Jet" Thompson
Co-founder,
Port Columbus Historical Society

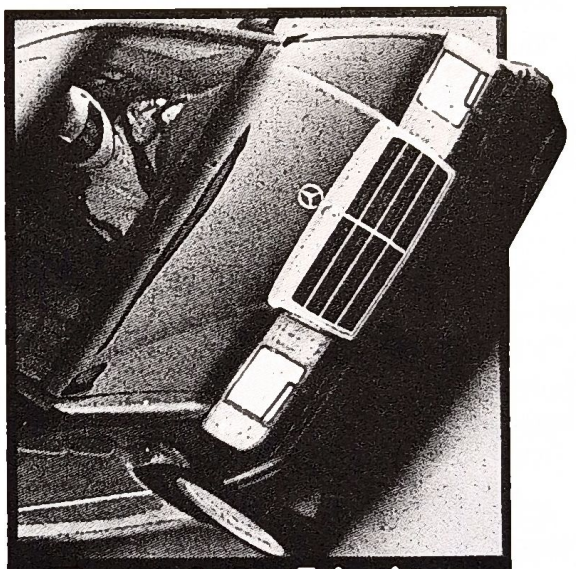
Send letters to: Editor, Columbus Monthly, *171 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus, Ohio 43215. A letter must include the writer's name and address. Letters will be edited for length and clarity. All letters sent to* Columbus Monthly *are considered for publication.*

Correction

A statement in an item in "Annual Awards" in the January issue was incorrect. In fact, neither of Circleville High School's two valedictorians was involved in the vandalism of the school last spring, and both participated in the school's commencement.

Columbus Monthly regrets the error.

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CITY JOURNAL

City Journal

For the record

"There's nothing wrong with my head, or I couldn't parlay $2,000 into something worth this much."
—**Paul F. Ricart Sr.**, *who started Ricart Ford, now among the nation's most successful car dealerships, on accusations made by family members that he was incompetent when he gave ownership rights to his sons, Fred and Rhett.*

"It's not like there's not a lot to go around."
—**Susan Ricart**, *on wanting a larger share of the Ricart business.*

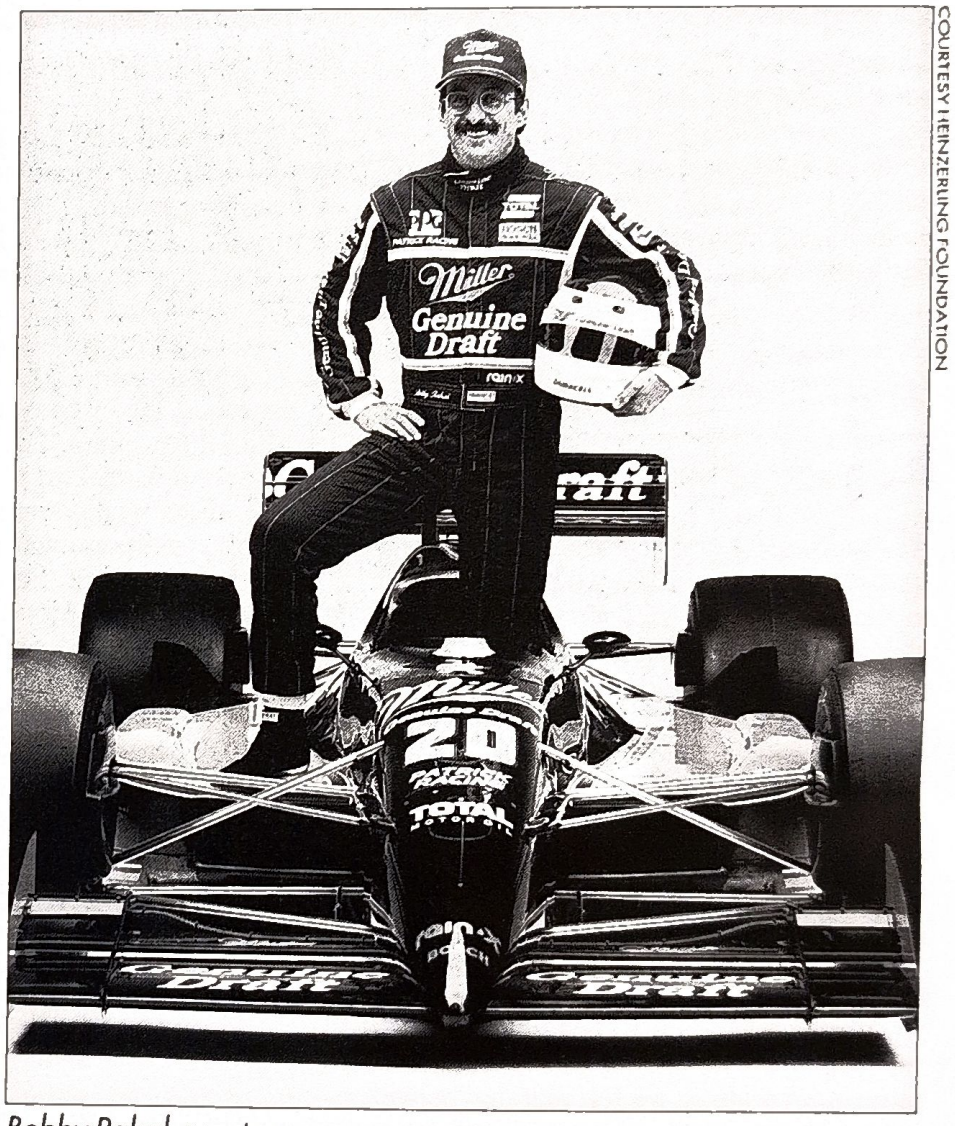
"Rhett was born on third base and he thought he hit a triple. He really feels he has total entitlement to all this. Fred, too."
—**Susan Ricart**, *on her brothers.*

"It's a coffeetable book, but at that price, you can just put legs right on the book."
—**Matthew Goldberg**, *merchandising manager for Doubleday Book Shops, on* The Sistine Chapel, *which costs $1,000.*

"There are about 15 Buck Rineharts. I really like 10 of them. I love two of them. And three of them make it difficult for me to digest my lunch."
—**Dennis R. Minshall**, *former executive assistant to Mayor Rinehart.*

▼ *Compiled by Ray Paprocki*

Participating in a fine old tradition



COURTESY HEINZERLING FOUNDATION

Bobby Rahal, roastee.

FEB. 15 IS A DAY DUBLIN resident Bobby Rahal may be awaiting warily. On that evening, the Indy car driver will be the star attraction in one of the most degrading spectacles known to man—the celebrity roast.

As the man of honor at the Heinzerling Foundation's Woody Hayes Celebrity Roast, Rahal will be the target of put-downs and ribbings by a few of his closest and most celebrated friends, in front of hundreds of patrons who each paid $125 or $200—partly for charity, partly for a good time.

He'll need his sense of humor, as friends including local businessman Tom O'Shaughnessy, golf broadcaster Ben Wright and comedian David Letterman take their turns. Few aspects of the honoree's private life are off-limits to the speakers—roaster John Montgomery proved this to be true at last year's event, when a red-faced Jack Nicklaus had to endure a 10-minute speech by Montgomery on the Golden Bear's bathroom habits.

Rahal is the fourth celebrity to be roasted by the Heinzerling Foundation, a nonprofit residential facility that supports the education and development of children and adults with severe mental retardation.

The event began in 1989 to replace the Woody Hayes Birthday Phone-a-Thon. For years, the legendary Ohio State football coach helped raise funds for the charity in this event, held on or near Feb. 15, his birthday. After Hayes died in 1987, his wife, Anne, lent her services to the fund-raising activities of the foundation, helping create the Woody Hayes Birthday Celebrity Roast in 1989.

The first roastee was University of Michigan football coach Bo Schembechler, a former assistant of Woody's and longtime Big Ten rival; he was followed by former Gov. James A. Rhodes and Nicklaus. This year, Mayor Greg Lashutka has taken over from Mrs. Hayes the chairperson's responsibilities, and helped line up Rahal.

Foundation executive director Kathryn Heinzerling says the event committee tries to focus on celebrities with ties to Central Ohio. What big names remain on the candidates' list? The group already is looking ahead to the choice of next year's celebrity, she says.

The roasters, meanwhile, represent a wide variety of vocations and come to Columbus from all over the country. Heinzerling says the roastee picks

the roasters—with the exception of WCMH-TV sportscaster Jimmy Crum, who annually serves as the toastmaster and initial roaster—and it's up to the foundation to make sure they can come.

It can be difficult to secure the designated roasters, as their schedules must be considered and their travel plans occasionally taken care of, Heinzerling says. This year, Rahal's three announced roasters—at least three more will be chosen later—are all close friends. Securing O'Shaughnessy was relatively easy, because he's local. Wright also was willing to participate, because he won't be working on any golf telecasts for CBS that weekend. But Letterman was harder—his schedule is uncertain because of a possible network change. There's a very, very slim chance he'll appear in person, and if he can't make it, he's promised to send along videotaped remarks.

One of the drawbacks to having the roastee pick the supporting cast is that crowd-pleasing choices may be overlooked. Take Nicklaus, for example. For a golfer whose career spans more than three decades, it would seem logical to invite a few professional golfers, perhaps the comical Lee Trevino or the witty Fuzzy Zoeller. The folks at Nicklaus's company, though, only agreed to one golfer, Chi Chi Rodriguez. The other four roasters included John Hines, vice president and general manager of Muirfield Village Golf Club, and Terry Jastrow, founder of Jack Nicklaus Productions.

But there is one obvious benefit to the selection method. No matter *what* anecdotes the roasters dredge up, no matter how embarrassing the commentary, no matter how sharp the needles, it'll be tough for the celebrity honoree to complain. He picked them, after all.

▼ *Tim Hahn*

The cats of O.U.

IT'S BEEN QUITE AN exciting life for two little bobcats who started out as family pets, went on to become official mascots of a university and now are attractions at the Columbus Zoo.

The bobcats, Bobbie and Paws, were given to Molly Widdis, a 14-year volunteer at the Columbus Zoo, and her husband, Richard, an Ohio University alumnus, in the early '80s. "We've raised more animals," Molly Widdis says with a laugh—they started with a baby mountain lion and went on to some other animals before getting Bobbie. The family kept her for a couple of years, and during that time Bobbie was named the official living mascot of Ohio University.

When the live mascot arrived at O.U., a contest was held in Athens to choose a new name for Bobbie. The winning name—Sir Winsalot—was entered by a faculty member's family. "We just said name the bobcat," says Harold McElhaney, director of athletics at O.U.; "We didn't say what sex it was"—which is how the female bobcat came to be dubbed "Sir." (At the zoo, and by the Widdises, she's still known as "Bobbie.")

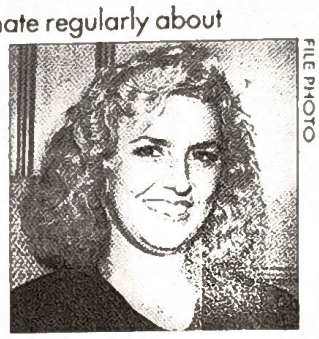
Bobbie—and later a second bobcat, Paws—never actually lived at the university, but traveled to Athens many times. "Dick and Molly used to bring her down to the games, both football and basketball," remembers McElhaney. "Dick would carry it around on his shoulder." "She really was just the nicest cat," Molly Widdis recalls.

In 1982 the Widdises, hoping that Bobbie would be placed in a habitat natural to bobcats, donated her to the Columbus Zoo. The Widdises took in a male bobcat, intending it to be an eventual mate for Bobbie—Paws (an acronym for Providing Athletes with Scholarships), who also attended some O.U. games before joining Bobbie at the zoo in 1984.

When students or alumni later asked about the cats, McElhaney jokingly told them the cats "got a little ornery and retired to the zoo," which perhaps is what sparked the rumor that O.U.'s

Insider

"Mad enough to spit nails" is the way one City Hall observer described **Jane Schoedinger** when the erstwhile city Development director found out **Odella Welch** would be running the Department of Human Services for **Greg Lashutka**. Schoedinger was Human Services chief for **Buck Rinehart** before she took over Development, and she used to fulminate regularly about supposed snafus and peccadilloes during Welch's years at Human Services in **Tom Moody's** administration. Schoedinger knew she was too much a Rinehart loyalist to have a shot at a Lashutka cabinet job herself, friends say, but she took it almost as a personal insult when Lashutka invited Welch to return from New Jersey, where she's held several state and county jobs.

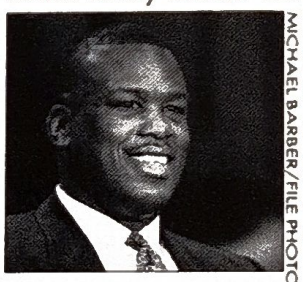


FILE PHOTO

Schoedinger: No fan of Ms. Welch.

Anyone listening to **WWCD-FM** recently might have heard a familiar voice: **Jim Bleikamp**, the former **WTVN-AM** liberal talk show host who lost his job during the Gulf War in a clash with the station and **U.S. Rep. John Kasich**. Bleikamp has been doing news broadcasts for WWCD; he also was on Cleveland's WWWE-AM over the holidays, filling in part-time—sort of a talk show host for hire. He says that in the past year he's had other free-lance stints at stations in Milwaukee, Kansas City and New Jersey. Bleikamp had a talk-show job in Peoria, but lost it after three days, when the station changed its format. He still lives here, and did radio and TV voice-overs for **Mary Jo Kilroy's** successful campaign for Columbus School Board. As for WTVN, Bleikamp says he is not bitter; "I have a pleasant relationship with the people at the station . . . and I am proud to have worked there."

Some political wagers get paid off with more flash than others. Seems **Buck Rinehart** bet former City Council president **Jerry Hammond** that Hammond's protégé and successor, **Les Wright**, would lose her council seat last November. To make sure nobody welshed, State Savings veep **Warren Tyler** was appointed to hold the $20 stakes. Wright won the race, Hammond won the bet, and Rinehart will watch Tyler deliver the booty, chez former Safety director **Larry James**, in February.



MICHAEL BARBER/FILE PHOTO

Douglas: A fan of Miss Vikki's.

There's no secret to why **Buster Douglas** is seen dining at Miss Vikki's Restaurant and Catering. The former heavyweight champ's trainer and uncle, **J.D. McCauley**, recently opened the Cleveland Avenue chicken and rib house. McCauley says Buster likes the ribs the best and even "takes the bones home for his dogs."

"Chicken Boy is still alive," says **Mary Ann Henry**, the owner of a Columbus advertising and film-video production business. Last fall, Henry wrote and produced a 30-minute comedy, appropriately titled ***Chicken Boy: The Movie***. The story of a half-boy, half-chicken who loves Elvis was filmed in Columbus and is available here on home video. Now Henry is having "serious discussion" with Disney and Nickelodeon executives about airing the short.

Real estate update: **Jack and Charlotte Kessler** vacated the large house they built next door to **Les Wexner**'s and are renting one of the 1991 Parade houses while they wait for their house in **New Albany Community's** Crescent to be finished. But what about the place next to Wexner? Since it's spitting distance from the Big House, Wexner won't want riffraff living there. He now owns it, and Insider hears he hasn't put it on the market. Rumor is he may keep it, maybe until just the right friend/business partner comes along to move in.

The bet is there'll be no rush to finish the long-awaited Columbus Comprehensive Plan under new city Development boss **George Arnold**. The master plan has been in gestation for years, but it's still in draft form, and a lot of developers aren't happy with it. Too much planning, say *laissez faire* types, will cripple the market. **Greg Lashutka** tepidly endorsed the planning process during his mayoral campaign, but he hasn't said a word about the product. Watch for the comprehensive plan to move to a burner so far back on the Lashutka stove that it won't even have a pilot light. ▼

bobcat was donated to the zoo because it bit someone during a game. Asked about that story, Widdis laughs and says it isn't true: "Oh, no, no. How do these things get started?"

There never were any serious mishaps at the games, although Bobbie "did get a little rambunctious," McElhaney says. "It didn't attack or bite anyone. There were no casualties, other than the sleeve of Dick's sport coat, which was torn off once."

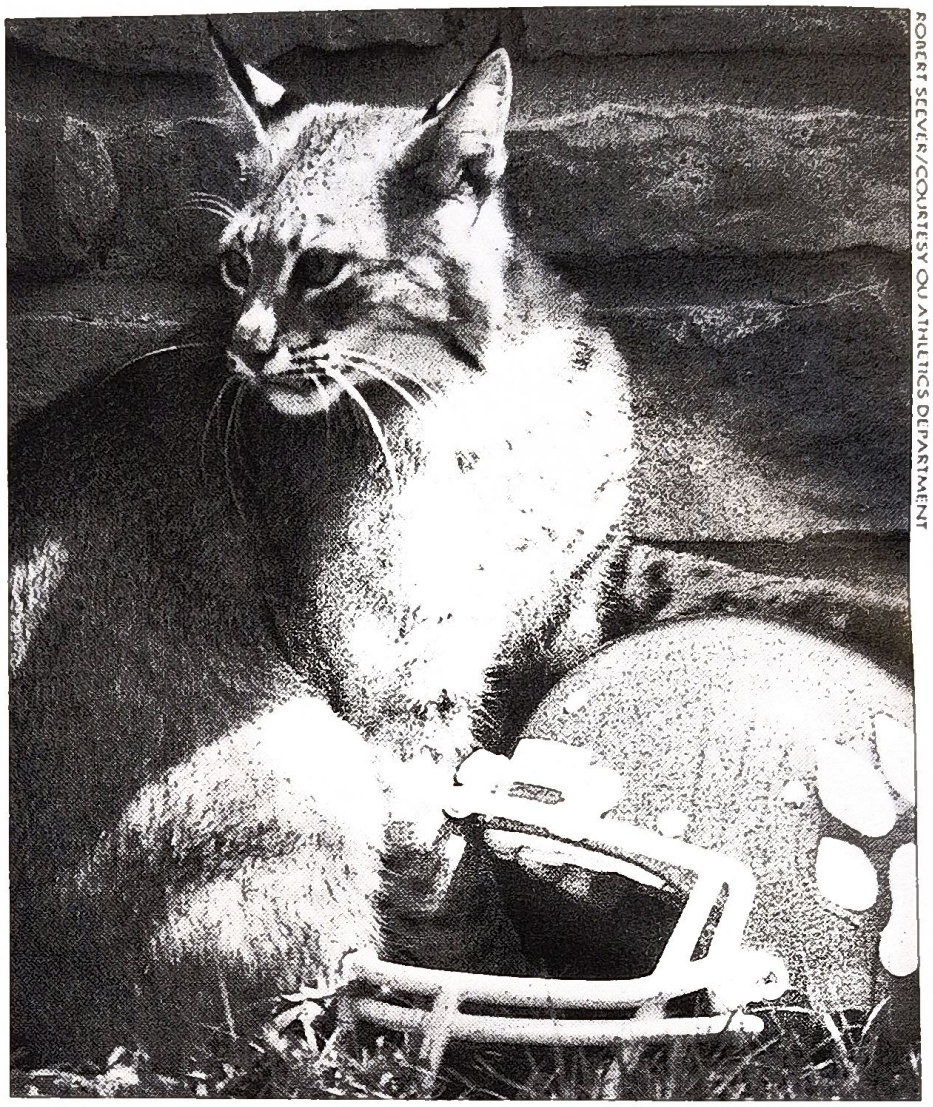
The natural environment the Widdises had hoped for was created at the zoo in 1984—the North American exhibit. The exhibit is "natural looking with lots of trees," says Patty Cupps, marketing director at the zoo. The exhibit was "planned around the kitties," Widdis says, and Cupps agrees that it was the bobcats and a few other zoo animals that launched the exhibit. "We knew we wanted the North American exhibit, and we had a few animals to go into it," Cupps says. "We used some of those animals—the bobcats, timber wolves, black bears—to raise . . . funds for the exhibit."

Zoogoers "either love it [the North American area] because it's great for the animals, or they hate it because they [the bobcats] are so hard to see," Cupps says. "They're small, and they have a lot of great hiding places. I like it because it's a challenge—they're the hardest things to find."

A plaque at the exhibit—stamped with the O.U. symbol, a bobcat paw—acknowledges the Widdises as the bobcat donors, and the zoo is planning an additional plaque that will inform visitors of the bobcats' mascot status.

In the meantime, although the bobcats no longer travel to O.U. (the cats haven't been there since being donated to the zoo, Widdis explains), they haven't been forgotten by Ohio University. The story of the live mascots is included in every football and basketball program, McElhaney says, and, according to Widdis, many Ohio University alumni stop by the zoo's exhibit for a visit with the O.U. bobcats.

▼ *Jill Hawes*



ROBERT SEEVER/COURTESY OU ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT

Bobbie

Finds

Remember the hand-painted silk clothing from KlaerWorks! sold at the now defunct Signatures store? You saw it again at Winterfair in December. The limited-edition works are made locally by sisters Judith Klaer-Kerns and Barbara Klaer, based in Judith's home in New Albany. Most of their business now is through shows, but you can buy direct by calling 855-1039.

Starting with white silk fabric, including raw silk, charmeuse and jacquards, the sisters design, construct and hand-paint their works. The clothing can be machine washed and dried.

Pieces range from ties and scarves at less than $50 to simple blouses at $55, vests at $95, dresses from $225 to $400 and coats or jackets with dresses at $600 to $900.

Look for some new designs in the coming months: Sweaters may be available in cotton, silk or rayon, as Judith has just begun experimenting on a knitting machine. And Barbara is trying her hand at airbrushing, as well as the Japanese tie-dyeing method shibari.

▼ *Laura Messerly*

A Zacks-Metcalf snarl in Probate Court

RICHARD METCALF, THE CZAR of Franklin County Probate Court for 25 years, now practices law quietly and influentially with the powerful Republican firm of Chester Hoffman Willcox & Saxbe. Gordon Zacks, chairman of R.G. Barry Corp., the shoe company, is every bit as well-connected a Republican as Metcalf. Zacks even advises President George Bush from time to time.

Metcalf and Zacks are unlikely adversaries, but they find themselves on opposite sides in a messy legal dispute over a Zacks family trust. Metcalf has charged Zacks family members with possible impropriety; Zacks has accused Metcalf of causing emotional distress for Zacks's elderly mother, Florence Melton. It's a battle that sets Zacks family members against each other in ugly ways.

The trust in question was created by Florence Melton's first husband, Aaron Zacks, who died in 1965. It was Melton who started the family business in 1946 by patenting a shoulder pad for women's clothing. When Aaron Zacks died, his wife became trustee of his trust, funded mostly with R.G. Barry Corp. stock. Trust assets weren't supposed to be distributed to the couple's two sons, Gordon and Barry Zacks, until after Florence's death.

Gordon Zacks fit into the R.G. Barry Corp. like a foot into one of the company's slippers. But his more flamboyant brother, Barry, wanted to be his own boss. In 1972 and again in the 1980s, sources close to the family say, Barry asked his mother for his share of the trust. Florence Melton apparently allowed Barry to use the proceeds from R.G. Barry Corp. stock to finance Kinetic Ventures, a real estate development company, and the Max & Erma's Restaurant chain.

Barry Zacks eventually lost control of Max & Erma's, which is now a public company. The stock in Kinetic Ventures, which is worth very little, is owned by the Aaron Zacks trust and now represents Barry's half of the trust.

But two of Barry's children, Daniel and Andrew Zacks, say their grandmother, Florence Melton, never should have let Barry use trust funds for his own businesses. Because Melton violated the trust, the brothers contend, they should be entitled to half of *all* its remaining R.G. Barry stock. Gordon Zacks thinks the R.G. Barry stock belongs in *his* part of the trust. The amount of money in question is difficult to determine; estimates range from $700,000 to $2 million.

Metcalf says he represents the two children of Daniel Zacks, whose interests deserve special protection. Daniel's ex-wife, Mary Keller Zacks, hired Metcalf in 1991 to represent her kids, but later fired him. Metcalf, however, argued in a court filing that Daniel's children "have certain rights that are not being pursued," and only the court could fire him.

"I can't stand and watch the adults squeeze the kids out," Metcalf says. "I am not sure that is happening. I just want the court to decide."

Metcalf also wants the court to appoint him to investigate the trust. Florence Melton and Gordon Zacks, on the other hand, want Metcalf to get lost. In a letter to Probate Court, Gordon Zacks wrote that Metcalf's actions have been "emotionally distressing" to his mother, "who is almost 80 years old," and have caused "unnecessary expense." Melton herself, through attorney Russell Kelm, has accused Metcalf of unethical conduct, contending he shouldn't be involved in a case over which he formerly had jurisdiction as Probate judge.

There are complexities galore—waivers of rights, possible disinheritances, disagreements among siblings, fine points of probate law. Also, Metcalf says that Mary Keller Zacks might have been "pressured" to fire him, an allegation she denies. But at its heart, the battle centers on who's entitled, some day, to a big block of R.G. Barry stock.

Should that block go to Barry Zacks's children because their grandmother allowed their father to invade the trust? Should it go to Gordon Zacks, because it's what his father intended him to have? Or should it—as Metcalf seems to be arguing—skip a generation and go to Barry Zacks's grandchildren, not yet old enough to speak for themselves?

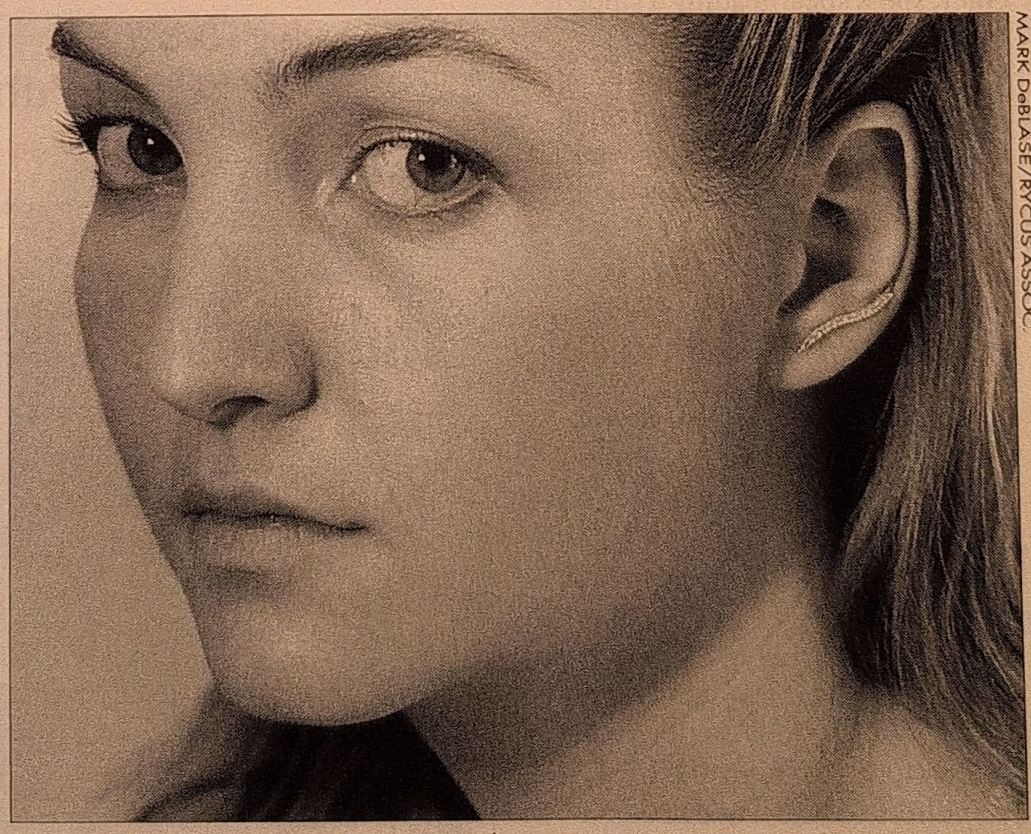
So far the only winner is Richard Metcalf. Common Pleas Judge Michael Close (who's hearing the case because Probate Judge Lawrence Belskis withdrew) has ruled that Metcalf has done nothing wrong. Round two is scheduled in Close's courtroom in March.

▼ *Ray Paprocki*

What's new in ear ornaments

A RING IS A RING IS A RING, right? Earrings always dangle down, right? Wrong. New trends have come to two old staples, the earring and the ring.

At the Added Touch in the French Market at the Continent, a nifty bit of adornment called the Ear Pin is growing in popularity. The Ear Pin is a small, curvy shimmer of gold on a long wire similar to a French hook. The wire is carefully threaded through the pierced ear hole. On a regular earring, the hook would hang down behind the earring, holding it in place. On an Ear Pin, the wearer pivots the earring upward, so that it rests in the outer curve of the ear. The hook rests against the back of the ear, holding the Ear Pin gently in place.



MARK DeBLASE/RYCUS ASSOC.

An Ear Pin, the new variation on the earring.

"All of our lives we've either worn a blob on our ears, or something hanging off of it," says Added Touch manager Thelma

different, very elegant and very comfortable." Salesperson Clare

you're on the phone, you don't have to remove them."

Legal briefs

News from the courts

The names of a couple of former Buckeye jocks have turned up in the legal arena.

Perry Carter, the erstwhile OSU basketball star now playing pro ball in Europe, is being sued for paternity and child support by Linda Renee Sawyer.

In the fall of 1990, Sawyer says, she and Carter conceived a baby. Now she wants money and health insurance for Taylor Tyree Sawyer, born last summer.

Zack Dumas, a defensive back on the football team in the late '80s, has been accused of rape by a former OSU student. Dumas says he had sex with the woman last August, but denies it was rape.

Remember the nasty fire that roasted the Ohio Board of Regents offices in 1989?

The state says: Let's blame it on Xerox.

Last December the Ohio Building Authority filed suit claiming Xerox:

"Failed to properly repair" a Xerox copier "after it had shown signs of overheating."

Or sold the Regents a copier "defective in design...."

Or failed to train the Regents' staff to run the copier safely.

Or didn't put proper warning signs on the machine.

Take your pick, Xero

come in more than 73 different styles. Most popular are the plain 14 karat gold, embellished with beading or diamond cutting for a bit more glitter. A few flamboyant styles sport strings of diamonds on fronds of gold. When Dickinson wore long curves of rubies in her ears, she says, plenty of people noticed.

The Ear Pins "go flying out of here so fast," says Hogard. Recent customers included two women who spotted a stranger wearing the Ear Pin in a restaurant, pumped her for information, and "high-tailed it right up here," Hogard says. The Added Touch is the only store we found that carries Ear Pins.

Prices are comparable to those of more traditional earrings, starting at $39.60 for a popular beaded gold version. Larger, bejeweled Ear Pins can cost $200 to $300.

Generally in their mid 20s and older, customers often are looking for something intriguing, but not flashy, to wear to the office. Ear pins haven't caught on yet with trendy teen-agers who, Dickinson observes, "want something that dangles and swings and whistles."

However, the younger buyers are the ones experimenting with different ways to wear rings. Not content to perpetuate the boring tradition of sliding rings all the way to the base of the finger, some people are buying rings to fit between the first and second knuckle. Others prefer jewelry for their thumbs. And some, says Ruby's owner Muffy McFarland, want toe rings.

No ring is expressly designed for mid-finger or toe wear, she says. Instead, customers purchase smaller or larger versions of the designs.

People aren't knocking down the doors demanding the rings, but McFarland estimates she rings up a couple of sales a week. "I just this morning sold another thumb ring," she recalls.

Vera Adler, owner of Illusions Replica Jewels at the Columbus Convention Center, has sold a few of the rings. "I don't think it will catch on," she predicts. "It's not a very comfortable way to wear a ring. . . . I don't think I would last a day."

McFarland says, "A bunch of people have come in and asked" about toe rings; she adds, laughing, "I won't let them try them on."

▼ *Katherine Matthews*

25 Years Ago

In February, 1967: The city pledged $26.5 million for a reservoir on Big Darby Creek.

A woman wrote to Dear Abby of her dilemma—she had signed an agreement to purchase goods from a door-to-door salesman, and was afraid to break the news to her husband. Abby's advice: Never buy anything without your husband's approval.

Nick J. Barack resigned as director of the city's recreation department, and Melvin Dodge was appointed his successor.

Franklin County lost its access to privately owned landfills, and worked to appropriate 90 acres at the I-71, I-270 and Jackson Pike triangle to create a city landfill. Local residents protested.

City Council approved funds for the Scioto Riverfront Development Project, $125,000 of which was earmarked for an Avenue of Flags along Civic Center Drive.

From the Help Wanted ads: "Gal Fridays" and "Office gals" were needed, with average salaries of $350 a month.

▼ *Jill Hawes*

Now, the *Independent* fights for life

LOOKING BACK, KIM BATES still questions whether or not she made the right decision. However, the Ohio State University journalism major doesn't have much choice now: As editor-in-chief, she's spearheading a student-run, independent newspaper, appropriately called the *Independent*. Bates and her ragtag band of editors and reporters had hoped to put out the paper's second issue by mid January.

"There are times I wonder about what I've done," Bates says. "I want to go along with what we said we were going to do." Last October, she and nine other *Lantern* editors either resigned or were fired from their student editorships on the university's daily newspaper. The exodus had been in the making for weeks, since earlier fall quarter when the student editors discovered a long-standing, unwritten *Lantern* policy giving the adviser the right to review stories for potential libel. The editors balked when new adviser Mary Carran Webster asked to review several stories. They filled most editorial space in the Oct. 2 issue with the First Amendment, and for weeks the paper ran the words "Publication Under Protest" atop page one.

The stalemate ended when school of journalism faculty voted on a new policy that says, "Stories the adviser feels are libelous will be submitted to independent legal counsel for ruling in cases where the editor does not agree with the adviser." Because the *Lantern* is subsidized by the university, Ohio State could be held liable if the paper were sued, the board said.

The Independent's *Dec. 5 issue, and a fall quarter* Lantern, *published "under protest."*

Publication Under Protest

the Lantern

The Independent

The student's newspaper

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution:

Wexner's practices pose potential conflict

Students, professionals angry with procedures

WOSR money problems may cause university to tune out

First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

ntern protests prior review

G supports *Lantern* staff protest

eacted, committee members say

Despite the new policy, several editors still walked.

Some of those former *Lantern* editors banded together and decided to put out their own newspaper, one without what they called "unconstitutional censorship." That paper, the *Independent*, arrived on campus Dec. 5. "I think a lot of people around campus and the journalism building were a little surprised" at the paper's appearance, Bates says.

The four-page broadsheet was printed and paid for by staffers of the *Oakland Post*, an independent, student newspaper at Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan. The *Post* editors donated the $400 production costs and printing facilities for the 7,000 copies after hearing about the *Lantern* proceedings.

The first issue, a good effort considering its hurried production, included a front-page look at possible conflicts of interest with Limited founder and OSU board of trustees member Les Wexner's financial interests; problems with WOSR, the student-run campus radio station; the closing of OSU's department of photography and cinema; an interview with basketball player Chris Jent, and an editorial page.

According to the paper's mission statement, "*The Independent*'s goal is to carefully scrutinize local issues and present them to our readers in an informative and entertaining format." Says Bates, "We hope to have more investigative stories. Being a bi-weekly, we're going to have more time to do that."

The students now face "formidable opposition to starting a newspaper during a recession," says Kevin Stoner, chairman of OSU's Publication Board. He cites other obvious challenges: overcoming advertiser skepticism and sustaining student interest. "I would love to see it succeed," he says. "I wish them well."

As of early January, Bates still was searching for advertising and circulation managers. Volunteer business manager Garrett Schwartz, a computer science-political science double major, spent the holidays dropping off copies of ad rates to potential advertisers.

The plan calls for an eight- to 12-page bi-weekly tabloid—with production costs running around $1,250, Schwartz says—to be dropped at campus-area businesses. At the beginning of January, the paper still was in search of a printer.

Money and business savvy seem to be the biggest question marks. "We're good journalists. We're kind of the rebels," Bates says. "We have the talent, but not the resources." Seven of the 10 editors have journalism backgrounds. Bates and the other editors plan to edit copy on their home computers.

Although *Lantern* editors wrote a gracious good luck editorial in the last fall quarter issue, Bates says there is still some tension among the students. Will journalism majors who work on the *Independent* be allowed to take the required *Lantern* courses simultaneously?

Bates says there's no ill will toward the *Lantern* on the part of the *Independent* staff. "We don't want to get back at them. We want to put it behind us," she says. "We're moving on and working on our stories."

▼ *John Elsasser*

CITY JOURNAL

CRIME IN THE BURBS

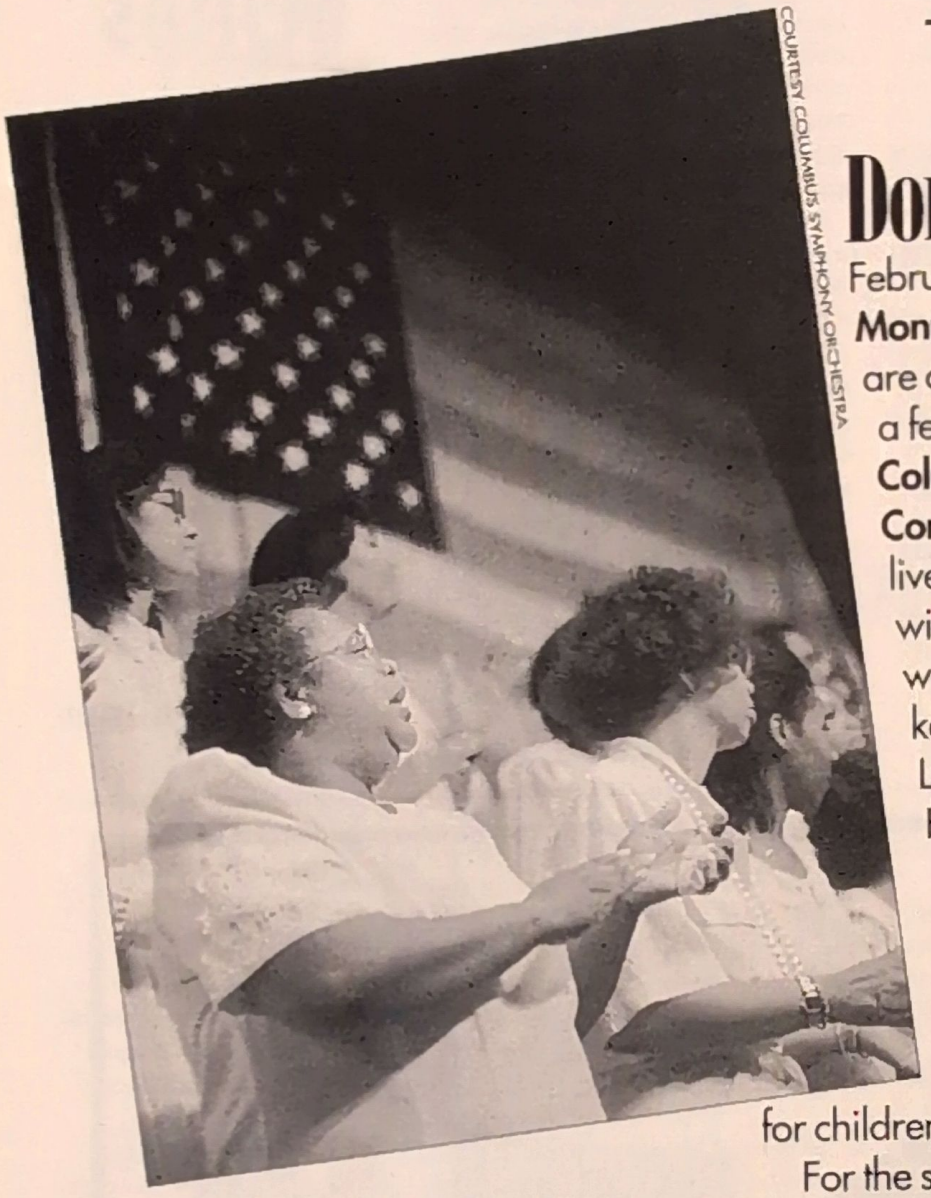
An Upper Arlington woman recently told police she was watching cable TV when the channel switched to a spicy, adult pay-per-view movie. She changed channels, only to have the adult movie pop back on screen. The woman turned the TV off, looked out the window and saw two teen-age boys with a remote control box. The teens left without further channel changing.

▼ *John Elsasser*

101 ONE

LAURA MESSERLY
JILL HAWES

FEBRUARY



COURTESY COLUMBUS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Don't miss:

February is **Black History Month**, and to celebrate, there are concerts, theatre performances, a festival, exhibits and more. The **Columbus Symphony Orchestra Community Gospel Choir** (left) will liven up the elegant Ohio Theatre with song Feb. 9. At OSU, a week's worth of activities kicks off with keynote speaker Niara Sudarkasa, president of Lincoln University in Pennsylvania. See Concerts, Exhibitions, Lectures, Festivals and Miscellaneous.

Ice Capades (below, right) has been entertaining folks for 50 years, and you can see its golden anniversary edition show at the Ohio Center Feb. 4 through 9. The show includes everything from fancy production numbers to characters such as Yogi Bear for children. See Miscellaneous.

For the second year, the **Big Bear Tennis Challenge** brings top female players to town. Martina Navratilova (left) and Jennifer Capriati return and are joined by Zina Garrison and Jana Novotna to compete for a half-million-dollar purse. See Sports.

COURTESY TAC SPORTS MARKETING

COURTESY ICE CAPADES

FEBRUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

Information for Columbus Calendar.

Events must be of general interest and open to the public. There is no charge for listing in Columbus Calendar; items will be included as space permits. We must receive written information seven weeks prior to the first of the month in which the event takes place. We do not accept submissions via fax.
April deadline is Monday, Feb. 10.
Please follow the general format of the appropriate category, including a phone number the public can use for further information. Send to:
Columbus Calendar
Columbus Monthly
P.O. Box 29913
Columbus, Ohio 43229

Please confirm.

We suggest readers confirm information contained in Columbus Calendar, since the material we include is received seven weeks prior to publication. Please call the telephone numbers given in Columbus Calendar for confirmation, ticket and/or general information.

theatre

Broadway Series—Ohio Theatre, 39 E State St, 431-3600. *Cats*, Broadway musical based on poetry of TS Elliot, touring company presented by Columbus Theatrical Assoc, 2/18 at 2 & 8 pm; 2/19 thru 22 at 8 pm; 2/23 at 2 & 7 pm. Tickets $27-$42.50.

Capital University—Cabaret Theatre, Capital University, 2199 E Main St, 236-6497. *Lysistrata*, by Aristophanes, 2/13 thru 15 at 8 pm, 2/16 at 2 pm. Tickets $5, students & senior citizens $4.

Contemporary American Theatre Company—512 N Park St, 461-0010. *Laughing Wild*, comedy for mature audiences by Christopher Durang, 2/1 at 8 pm. *Wings*, story of a woman recovering from a stroke, by Arthur Kopit, 2/26 & 27 at 7:30 pm; 2/28, 29, 3/5 thru 7, 11 thru 14 & 18 thru 21 at 8 pm (audio description for visually impaired 3/7); 3/1 at 2 pm; 3/8 at 7 pm. Tickets Wed, Thu & Sun $9.50 & $13.50, students & senior citizens $7; Fri $12.50 & $16.50; Sat $14 & $18.

Gallery Players—Jewish Community Center, 1125 College Ave, 235-2058. *Personals*, by Stephen Schwartz, Alan Menken and others, musical comedy revue about looking for love, for mature audiences, 2/1, 8 & 15 at 8:30 pm; 2/2 & 16 at 2 & 7:30 pm; 2/5, 6, 12 & 13 at 7:30 pm. Tickets $11-$15; students, senior citizens & members $10-$14.

Lithopolis Area Fine Arts Assoc—Wagnalls Memorial, 150 E Columbus St, Lithopolis, 837-4765 or 837-1800. *Robert Post, movement/theatre artist*, mime, comedy, juggling, puppets and more, 2/29 at 8 pm. Tickets $10, students $8.

Little Theatre Off Broadway—3981 Broadway, Grove City, 875-3919. *The Bad Seed*, suspense story by Maxwell Anderson, 2/1 at 8 pm. Tickets $5-$7.

OSU Theatre—292-2295

Stadium II Theatre—Drake Union, 1849 Cannon Dr. *Candida*, romantic comedy by George Bernard Shaw, presented by the OSU Theatre Company, 2/12 at 7:30 pm; 2/13, 14, 19 thru 21 & 26 thru 28 at 8 pm; 2/15, 22 & 29 at 2 & 8 pm. Tickets matinees and Wed-Thu eve $8.75; Fri-Sat $9.25.

Studio Theatre—Mount Hall, 1050 Carmack Rd. *Trifles*, about women uncovering a murderer, by Susan Glaspell, and *Statements After an Arrest Under the Immorality Act*, about interracial romance in South Africa, by Athol Fugard, 2/4 thru 8 at 8 pm. Tickets $5.25.

Come to . . .

CHRIS MEROLA'S LONE STAR STEAKHOUSE

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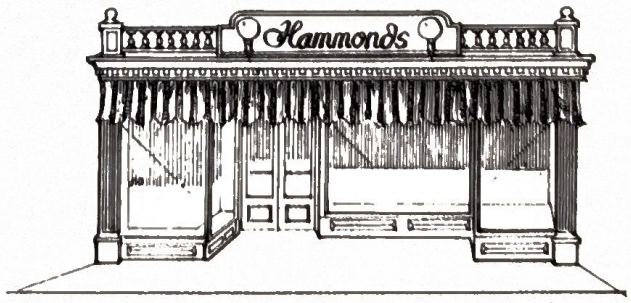

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Thurber Theatre—Drake Union, 1849 Cannon Dr. *The Rover; or the Banish't Cavaliers*, 1678 play about women looking for husbands, by Aphra Behn, 2/26 at 7:30 pm; 2/27, 28 & 3/4 thru 6 at 8 pm; 2/29 & 3/7 at 2 & 8 pm. Tickets matinees and Wed-Thu eve $8.75; Fri-Sat $9.25.

Ohio Wesleyan University—Delaware, 1-369-7656.

Chappelear Drama Center—*People Who Led to My Plays*, autobiographical play by Cleveland playwright Adrienne Kennedy, part of Black History Month, 2/7 at 4 pm; free. *Student projects*, 2/14 & 15; call for more information.

Gray Chapel—*Mr Lincoln Returns*, by actor and Lincoln scholar James Getty, 2/12 at 8 pm. Tickets $3.

Otterbein College—Campus Center Theatre, Otterbein College, Westerville, 898-1109 (after 1/16). *Nunsense*, off-Broadway musical comedy by Dan Goggin, 1/29 at 7:30 pm; 1/30, 31, 2/1 & 4 thru 8 at 8 pm; 2/2 at 2 & 8 pm; 2/9 at 2 pm. Tickets $8.50 & $9.50.

Players Theatre Columbus—Riffe Bldg, State & High sts, 644-8425.

Capitol Theatre—*Wait Until Dark*, mystery drama by Frederick Knott, 2/1 at 2 & 8 pm (audio description for visually impaired 2/1 at 2 pm); 2/2 at 2 & 7 pm. *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, Pulitzer Prize-winning drama by Tennessee Williams, 2/12 thru 14 at 7:30 pm; 2/19 thru 21 & 26 thru 28 at 8 pm; 2/15, 22 & 29 at 2 & 8 pm (audio description for visually impaired 2/29 at 2 pm); 2/16, 23 & 3/1 at 2 & 7 pm. Tickets $15-$30.

Studio II Theatre—*Frankie and Johnny in the Clair De Lune*, off-Broadway comedy for mature audiences, by Terrence McNally, 2/5 thru 7 & 12 thru 14 at 8 pm; 2/1, 8 & 15 at 5 & 9 pm; 2/2, 9 & 16 at 2 & 7 pm. Tickets $15-$30.

Pontifical College Josephinum—7625 N High St, 885-5585. *Production by Josephinum Dramatics Organization*, 2/14 & 15 at 8 pm, 2/16 at 2 pm. Tickets $7, students & senior citizens $5.

Spotlight Dinner Theatre—794 S Front St, 443-0252. *Side by Side by Sondheim*, musical revue by Stephen Sondheim, Leonard Bernstein, Mary Rodgers, Richard Rodgers and Jule Styne, 2/1, dinner 6:30 pm, show 8 pm. *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, about racial conflicts, by August Wilson, Central Ohio première, part of Black History Month, 2/20, dinner 6 pm, show 7:30 pm; 2/21, 22, 27 thru 29 & 3/5 thru 7, dinner 6:30 pm, show 8 pm. Tickets $25; performance only $15.

Wexner Center—Performance Space, Wexner Center, N High St at 15th Ave, OSU, 292-2354. *Holly Hughes, performance artist, comic, poet, feminist*, presenting irreverent, original monologues, 2/26 thru 29 at 8 pm. *Ron Vawter, monologuist*, work based on life of Roy Cohn, homosexual McCarthy-era political figure, 2/20 thru 22 at 8 pm. Tickets $12.

Worthington Community Theatre—Kilbourne School Aud, Rt 161 & High St, 847-0469 or 891-4313. *Arsenic and Old Lace*, comedy by Joseph Kesselring, 2/14, 15, 21 & 22 at 8 pm. Tickets $5, students & senior citizens $4.

concerts

Wednesday, Jan 29 thru Feb 2

Jazz Arts Group—Ray Eubanks, director; Harold Jones, drummer; Al Grey, trombonist, presenting *The Count and the Duke*, 1/29 thru 2/1 at 8 pm, 2/2 at 7:30 pm, Battelle Aud, 505 King Ave, 231-7836. Tickets $16.

Friday, Jan 31 & Feb 1

Columbus Symphony Orchestra—Christian Badea, conductor; Garrick Ohlsson, pianist, presenting Smetana's *Overture to the Bartered Bride*, Bartók's *Piano Concerto No 2* and Brahms's *Symphony No 4 in E minor, Op 98*, Symphonic Series, 8 pm, Ohio Theatre, 39 E State St, 224-3291. Tickets $9-$29.

Saturday, Feb 1

Cantari Singers—Maurice Casey, conductor, with ProMusica Chamber Orchestra, presenting Haydn's *The Creation*, 7:30 pm, Palace Theatre, 34 W Broad St, 766-4741. Tickets $17, senior citizens $14, students $11.

Hexagon—presenting Beethoven's *Quintet in E flat for Piano and Winds, Op 16*, Riegger's *Concerto for Piano and Woodwind Quintet (1953)* and Thuille's *Sextet for Piano and Winds, Op 6 (1889)*, 8 pm, Gloria Dei Worship Center, Capital University, 2199 E Main St, 267-2267. Tickets $16.

Tuesday, Feb 4

Frank Koonce, classical guitarist—7:30 pm, Kerns Center, Capital University, 2199 E Main St, 236-6411. Free.

Wednesday, Feb 5

Joel Pugh, trombonist—faculty recital, 7:30 pm, Kerns Center, Capital University, 2199 E Main St, 236-6411. Free.

Thursday, Feb 6

Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, violinist—Wexner Center debut recital by the frequent Philadelphia Orchestra soloist, 8 pm, Mershon Aud, Wexner Center, N High St at 15th Ave, OSU, 292-2354. Tickets $14, $18 & $22.

Katie Zimmann, harpist—7 pm, Grandview Heights Public Library, 1685 W First Ave, 486-2951. Free.

Friday, Feb 7

Sounds of Rodgers and Hammerstein—American classics by Broadway performers, presented by CAPA, 8 pm, Palace Theatre, 34 W Broad St, 469-0939. Tickets $16.

highlight

Fans of director Martin Scorsese have a chance to see some of his early films, including the autobiographical *Italian American* at the **Columbus Museum of Art** this month. Film buffs will want to catch early films of other famous filmmakers, including Orson Welles, George Lucas and Steven Spielberg, as well as works by Columbus filmmakers. See Film.

Friday, Feb 7 & 8

Columbus Symphony Orchestra—Peter Nero, conductor, presenting *Music from the Heart*, Pops Series, 8 pm, Ohio Theatre, 39 E State St, 224-3291. Tickets $14-$31.

Sunday, Feb 9

Arlington Trio—presenting works by Bartók, Milhaud and Gershwin, Short North Chamber Music Series, 2 pm, Short North Tavern, 674 N High St, 291-5854. Tickets $8.

Capital University/Bexley Community Orchestra—NOW Music Festival, 7:30 pm, Gahanna Lincoln High School, 140 S Hamilton Rd, Gahanna, 236-6411. Tickets $5, students $2.

CSO Community Gospel Choir—Leslie B Dunner, conductor, 7 pm, Ohio Theatre, 39 E State St, 224-3291. Tickets $14, advance $12; children 12 & under half price.

Jocelyn McDonald, soprano, & Christopher Teves, guitarist—faculty recital, with William Florescu, baritone, 7 pm, Battelle Fine Arts Center, Otterbein College, Westerville, 898-1508. Free.

Nightnoise and Philip Aaberg—music from boogie-woogie to New Age with Irish instrumental quartet Nightnoise and pianist Aaberg, presented by the Worthington Arts Council, 7 pm, Thomas Worthington High School Aud, 300 W Dublin-Granville Rd, 431-0329. Tickets $15.75 & $13.75, senior citizens $13.75 & $11.75, youth $10.75; member discount.

Kathy Minahan, organist—student recital, 3:15 pm, Gray Chapel, Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, 1-368-3700. Free.

Monday, Feb 10 thru 15

Capital University NOW Music Festival—7:30 pm; 2/10 at Gloria Dei Worship Center; 2/11 thru 15 at Kerns Center; Capital University, 2199 E Main St, 236-6411. Tickets $5, students $2.

Tuesday, Feb 11

Kodo Drummers of Japan—presented by CAPA, 8 pm, Ohio Theatre, 39 E State St, 469-0939 for ticket information.

Wednesday, Feb 12

Mazowsze—National Folk Ensemble of Poland, presenting folklore, dance, costume and music, presented by CAPA, 8 pm, Ohio Theatre, 39 E State St, 469-0939 for ticket information.

Friday, Feb 14

Rory Block, singer & guitarist—blues singer, songwriter, guitarist, presented by Six Strings Concerts, 8:30 pm, Third Ave Performance Space, 1066 N High St, 294-7664. Tickets $14, advance $12.

Brass Band of Columbus—and Ohio Collegiate Brass; Paul Droste and Jon Woods, directors; Triune Concert Series, 8 pm, St John's Evangelical Protestant Church, 59 E Mound St, 224-8634. Free.

Kronos Quartet—Grammy Award-nominated ensemble performing experimental music including Ives, Bartók, Mingus, Cage and Howlin' Wolf, 8 pm, Mershon Aud, Wexner Center, N High St at 15th Ave, OSU, 292-2354. Tickets $14, $18 & $22.

Friday, Feb 14 & 15

Columbus Symphony Orchestra—Elisabeth Leonskaja, pianist; Columbus Symphony Chorus; presenting Ravel's *Daphnis et Chloé* and *Bolero* and Prokofiev's *Piano Concerto No 5 in G major, Op 55*, Favorites Series, 8 pm, Ohio Theatre, 39 E State St, 224-3291. Tickets $9-$26.

Saturday, Feb 15

Buck Creek Jazz Band—presented by the Central Ohio Hot Jazz Society, 8 pm-midnight, Stouffer's Dublin Hotel, 600 Metro Place N, 431-3600 or 457-0759. Tickets $15.

Ramsey Lewis and Billy Taylor, jazz pianists—presented by CAPA, 8 pm, Palace Theatre, 34 W Broad St, 469-0939 for ticket information.

Randy Travis, country musician—6 & 10 pm, Veterans Memorial, 300 W Broad St, 221-4341 for ticket information.

Sunday, Feb 16

G Dene Barnard, organist—Congregational Concerts, 8 pm, First Congregational Church, 444 E Broad St, 228-1741. Donations accepted.

Capital Wind Symphony—part of NOW Music Festival, 3:30 pm, Gahanna Lincoln High School, 140 S Hamilton Rd, Gahanna, 236-6411. Tickets $5, students $2.

Columbus Quartet—presenting works by Arriaga, Bartók and Beethoven, Chamber Music Sunday Afternoons Series, presented by the Jefferson Academy of Music, 2 pm, Columbus Museum of Art, 480 E Broad St, 263-1012. Tickets $10; students, senior citizens & members $6.

Alan Feinberg, pianist—presenting *The American Romantic*, including works by John Harbison, Amy Beach and Robert Helps, 8 pm, Weigel Hall Aud, Wexner Center, N High St at 15th Ave, OSU, 292-2354. Tickets $14 & $18.

Robert Hebble, organist—with chancel choir, 7:30 pm, Worthington United Methodist Church, 600 High St, 885-5365. Free.

High Street Stompers—Dixieland music, Short North Chamber Music Series, 2 pm, Short North Tavern, 674 N High St, 291-5854. Tickets $8.

Lancaster Chorale—Robert Trocchia, director, presenting a cappella works, 7:30 pm, Pontifical College Josephinum, 7625 N High St, 885-5585. Tickets $8, students & senior citizens $6.

Wednesday, Feb 19

William Florescu, baritone—faculty recital, with Christopher Teves, classical guitarist, and Jocelyn McDonald, soprano, 7:30 pm, Kerns Center, Capital University, 2199 E Main St, 236-6411. Free.

Thursday, Feb 20

Capital University Jazz—7:30 pm, Crusader Club, Capital University, 2199 E Main St, 236-6411. Free.

Friday, Feb 21

Circa 1500—*Portugese Discoveries*, Portugese, Spanish and Neapolitan music, Early Music in Columbus Series, lecture 7:45 pm, concert 8:15 pm, Gloria Dei Worship Center, Capital University, 2199 E Main St, 236-6411. Tickets $10, students & senior citizens $7.

Friday, Feb 21 thru 23

Columbus Symphony Orchestra—Silvia Marcovici, violinist, presenting Prokofiev's *Violin Concerto No 1 in D major, Op 19* and Glazunov's *Symphony No 5 in B-flat major, Op 55*, Symphonic Series, 2/21 & 22 at 8 pm, 2/23 at 3 pm, Ohio Theatre, 39 E State St, 224-3291. Tickets $9-$29.

Saturday, Feb 22

Borodin Quartet—from Moscow, presenting 20th-century Soviet music, including Prokofiev's *Quartet No 2*, Schnittke's *Quartet No 3* and Shostakovich's *Quartet No 15*, presented by the Columbus Chamber Music Society, Gloria Dei Worship Center, Capital University, 2199 E Main St, 267-2267. Tickets $16.

Craig Harris and the Tailgater's Tales—jazz composer and trombonist with ensemble, presenting music and humor, 8 pm, Weigel Hall Aud, Wexner Center, N High St at 15th Ave, OSU, 292-2354. Tickets $14 & $18.

Sunday, Feb 23

Alan Feinberg, pianist—presenting *The American Innovator*, including works by Ives, Cowell and Cage, Performance Space, Wexner Center, N High St at 15th Ave, OSU, 292-2354. Tickets $12.

Saturday, Feb 29 & March 1

ProMusica Chamber Orchestra—Timothy Russell, conductor; Thomas Battenberg, trumpeter, presenting Pelusi's *A Musical Narrative*, Hummel's *Trumpet Concerto*, Rossini's *Overture to the Barber of Seville*, Respighi's *The Birds* and a student composition; on 2/29 lecture 7 pm, concert 8 pm, reception following; on 3/1 lecture 6:30 pm, concert 7:30 pm; Weigel Hall Aud, Wexner Center, N High St at 15th Ave, OSU, 464-0066. Tickets 2/29 $13-$20; 3/1 $11-$17.

exhibitions

Acme Art Company—737 N High St, 299-4003. *Works by Mark Sparks and Ross Smith*, 2/1 thru 29. Wed-Sat 1-7 pm & by appointment.

Battelle Fine Arts Center—Otterbein College, Westerville, 898-1508. *Quilts by Women of Color*, 2/2 thru 28; *Women Artists: Selections from the Otterbein College Collection*, 2/1 thru 3/18. Mon-Thu 8:30 am-10 pm, Fri-Sat 8:30 am-8 pm, Sun 1-10 pm.

Blue Sky Gallery—1120 Jaeger St, 444-7115. *Inner Visions III*, paintings by Juanita Williams, thru 2/28. Tue-Sat noon-5 pm; closed Sun-Mon.

Bunte Gallery—Franklin University, 303 S Grant Ave, 341-6408. *Works by Virginia Fry*, thru 2/28. Mon-Thu 6:30 am-10 pm, Fri 8 am-5 pm, Sat 7:30 am-3 pm, Sun 1-6 pm.

Center of Science and Industry—COSI, 280 E Broad St, 228-2674. *Antarctica*, national traveling exhibition about geography, weather, wildlife, geology and recent history of Antarctica, 2/1 thru 5/3. Mon-Sat 10 am-5 pm, Sun noon-5:30 pm.

Cleveland Museum of Art—11150 East Blvd, Cleveland, (216) 421-7340. *Scriptorium: The Illuminated Book in Medieval Art*, featuring 40 manuscripts, thru 2/2; *Picasso and Things: The Still Lifes of Picasso*, 2/26 thru 5/3, call for adm information; *Picasso as Printmaker* and *Picasso's Contemporaries*, both thru 4/26. *The Gruener Collection of Pre-Columbian Art*, 60 works in honor of 1992 quincentennial, 2/4 thru 11/8. Museum open Tue & Thu-Fri 10 am-5:45 pm, Wed 10 am-9:45 pm, Sat 9 am-4:45 pm, Sun 1-5:45 pm; closed Mon. Picasso exhibit open Tue & Thu 11 am-5:45 pm, Wed & Fri 11 am-9:45 pm, Sat 9 am-5:45 pm, Sun 11 am-6:45 pm.

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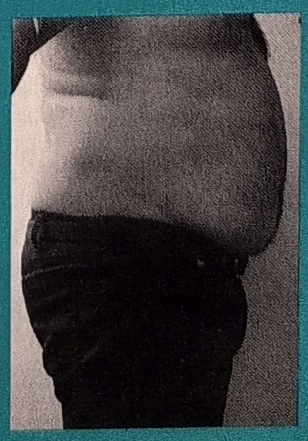
Before



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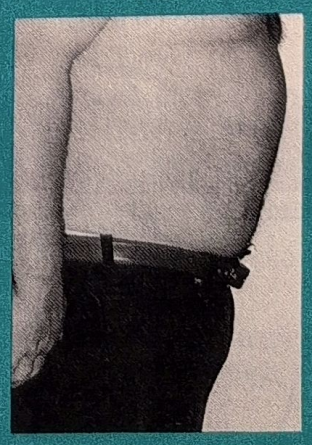

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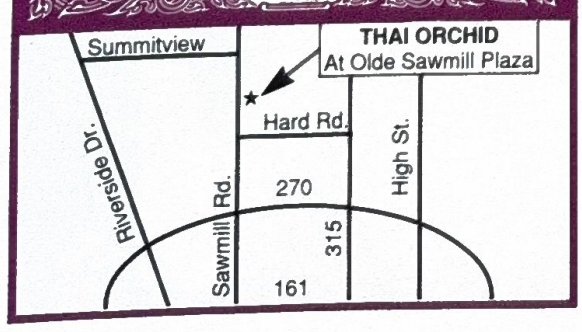

645-7047. *Columbus Art League*, curated exhibition, 2/2 thru 23. *Acrylics and pastels by Marilyn Curry, works by Center students* and *Through the Eyes of Love*, mixed media by Very Special Arts Ohio, all 2/2 thru 28. Mon-Thu 8 am-5 pm & 7-9:30 pm, Fri 8 am-5 pm, Sat-Sun 1-5 pm.

Columbus Museum of Art—480 E Broad St, 221-6801. *Masterpieces of Impressionism and European Modernism: The Sirak Collection*, 78 works by Monet, Renoir, Degas, Rodin, Pissarro, Klee and others, thru 10/12, adm $4.50, students & senior citizens $2, members free. *Pages of Enchantment: The Book Illustrations of Gennady Spirin*, 40 watercolor illustrations from children's books, thru 2/16, free. *A Nation's Legacy: 150 Years of American Art from Ohio Collections*, celebrating the Columbus Quincentennial Jubilee, 100 works, thru 4/15; tour 2/7 & 21 at noon, 2/9 & 23 at 2 pm; exhibit adm $4.50, students & senior citizens $2, members free. Tue-Fri 11 am-4 pm, Sat 10 am-5 pm, Sun 11 am-5 pm; closed Mon. Gen adm free; special exhibit adm varies.

Gallery 200—200 W Mound St, 224-1259. *Recent paintings/oil on canvas by Michelle Cooke* and *cast polymer resin sculptures by Ric Sneed*, thru 2/16; *polychrome wood sculptures and painted steel by James Clover* and *drawings and mixed media on paper by Dellas Henke*, 2/23 thru 3/22. Sun-Fri 1-5 pm, Sat 10 am-1 pm.

Grandview Heights Public Library—1685 W First Ave, 486-2954. *Photography by Daniel W Floss*, 2/1 thru 29. Mon-Fri 9 am-9 pm, Sat 9 am-5 pm; closed Sun.

Great Southern Hotel—310 S High St, 228-3800. *Rural/Urban Views and Patterns*, works by Mike Major, thru 2/27. Open days and evenings.

Integrity Life Insurance—200 E Wilson Bridge Rd, 438-1037. *Employee art show*, thru 2/21. Mon-Wed & Fri 9 am-5 pm, Thu 9 am-7 pm; closed Sat-Sun.

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission—285 E Main St, 228-2663. *Art for Everyone*, calligraphic works by James Miller, thru 2/28. Mon-Fri 8 am-5 pm; closed Sat-Sun.

Ohio Historical Center—I-71 & 17th Ave, 297-2300. *Fit for America*, from Strong Museum of Rochester, history of fitness, thru 4/27. *The Brilliance of Benjamin Franklin*, items belonging to, or written or invented by Franklin, commemorating Franklin University's 90th anniversary, thru 3/10. Mon-Sat 9 am-5 pm, Sun & holidays 10 am-5 pm.

Laura Paul Gallery—600 S Lazelle St, 224-8808. *H-art View*, featuring works by Catherine Clark, Lynn Sweet, DG Smith, Jim Dine and jewelry by Angela Cummings, 2/1 thru 28. Mon-Fri 10 am-5 pm; Sat by appointment; closed Sun.

Riffe Gallery—77 S High St, 466-2613. *New Installations in Glass*, site-specific glass installations by contemporary artists, presented by Glass Axis and the Ohio Arts Council, 2/8 thru 4/24. Mon-Wed 11 am-4 pm, Thu-Fri 11 am-7:30 pm, Sat noon-4 pm; closed Sun.

Roy G Biv Gallery—772 N High St, Suite 103, 297-7694. *Paintings by Carol Griffith, mixed media sculpture by Lee A Hervey* and *collection of tea pots and cups*, 2/1 thru 29; winter tea 2/22 at 3 pm. Wed-Sun 3-7 pm; closed Mon-Tue.

Schumacher Gallery—Capital University, 2199 E Main St, 236-6319. *Stone and Bone: Arctic Artistry*, Inuit art and sculpture, thru 3/8. Mon-Fri 1-5 pm, Sat-Sun 2-5 pm.

Short North galleries—North High Street between Goodale and Fifth, also adjoining streets, 299-0860. Gallery hopping, featuring the opening of new exhibits in several galleries, 2/1 from 6-9 pm. See listings for Acme Art Gallery and Roy G Biv.

Wehrle Gallery—Ohio Dominican College, 1216 Sunbury Rd, 251-4771. *Lens and Leaves Photography Club exhibition*, 2/2 thru 22; opening 2/2 from 3-5 pm. Mon-Fri 9 am-5 pm, Sat-Sun 1-5 pm.

Wexner Center—N High St at 15th Ave, OSU, 292-0330. *Stephen Pentak: Three Paintings from the Broadwaters Series; Recent work by Elizabeth Murray, Selections from the Tyler Graphics Archives at Walker Art Center*, and *About Landscape: Mary Beyt, Tom Czarnopys and Rudy Vavra*; all thru 2/23. *Architecture Tomorrow: Diller/Scofidio*, show about tourist sites using suitcases, by Elizabeth Diller and Ricardo Scofidio, 2/8 thru 22. Exhibit tours Thu, Sat & Sun at 1 pm. Tue-Wed 10 am-6 pm, Thu-Sat 10 am-8 pm, Sun noon-5 pm.

Helen Winnemore's—150 E Kossuth St, 444-5850. *Works in slate by Dave Brown*, 2/2 thru 29, opening reception 2/2 from 2-5 pm. Mon-Sat 10 am-5:30 pm; closed Sun.

Worthington Public Library—805 Hartford St, 885-3185. *Photo Expressions* by Kenneth E Becker, 2/1 thru 29. Mon-Thu 9 am-9 pm, Fri-Sat 9 am-6 pm, Sun 1-5 pm.

opera

New York City Opera—touring company performing Puccini's *Tosca*, presented by CAPA, 2/19 at 7:30 pm, Ohio Theatre, 39 E State St, 469-0939. Tickets $18, $20 & $29.

Highlight

For its first solo painting exhibition, the **Wexner Center** chose nationally known artist **Elizabeth Murray**, whose three-dimensional canvases present abstract-figurative forms. Paintings from 1987 to the present make up the show. See Exhibitions.

Otterbein College—Mozart's *Cosi fan tutte*, 2/28 & 29 at 8 pm, 3/1 at 2 pm, Battelle Fine Arts Center, Otterbein College, Westerville, 898-1508 for ticket information.

film

Columbus Museum of Art—Three by Scorsese: *Italian American*, about Scorsese family, *The Big Shave*, 1968 color film, and *American Boy*, 1978 color film with Steven Price, all by Martin Scorsese, all 2/7; Great Directors/Early Works: *Hearts of Age*, 1934 b&w American experimental film by Orson Welles, *What's a Nice Girl Like You Doing in a Place Like This?*, 1962 b&w comedy, first film by Scorsese, *Electronic Labrynth*, 1967 American color student film by George Lucas, *Amblin*, 1968 color film by Steven Spielberg, all 2/12; Home Grown: Columbus Filmmakers, experimental to farcical, 2/21; *Children of Paradise*, 1943-'45 b&w French film by Marcel Carne, starring Jean-Louis Barrault and Arletty, in conjunction with the OSU Theatre production *The Rover*, 2/28; all films at 7:30 pm; Columbus Museum of Art, 480 E Broad St, 221-6801. Adm $4; members, students & senior citizens $2.50.

Wexner Center—Cinema from Behind the Wall: East German Discoveries: *Naked Among the Wolves*, 1963 by Frank Bayer, 2/6 at 7:30 pm; *Jacob the Liar*, 1974 by Bayer, 2/13 at 7:30 pm; *The Break-In*, 1974 by Bayer, 2/15 at 7:30 pm. Area Premières: *Lyrical Nitrate*, 1991 by Peter Delpeut, with *New Animation from the Brothers Quay*, 1991, 2/7 & 8 at 7:30 pm. *Science as Fiction: Surrealist Cinema by Jean Painleve*, 2/18 at 7:30 pm. Avant-Garde Scandals: *Flaming Creatures*, 1963 by Jack Smith, and *Christmas on Earth*, 1963 by Barbara Rubin, 2/19 at 7:30 pm. Visiting Artists: Michelle Parkerson, 2/25 at 7:30 pm; Su Friedrich

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pm; Su Friedrich, 2/28 at 7:30 pm. Film/Video Theatre, Wexner Center, N High St at 15th Ave, OSU, 292-2354. Tickets $4; members, students & senior citizens $3.

Far Horizons World Travel Film Series, *The People of Holland*, by Frank Mungo, 2/22 at 2:30 & 8 pm, Mershon Aud, Wexner Center, N High St at 15th Ave, OSU, 292-2354. Tickets $4 & $5.

dance

Wednesday, Jan 29 thru Feb 1

Stuart Pimsler Dance and Theatre—multimedia movement theatre exploring the human condition, social restraints and identity, program includes new Wexner Center-commissioned work *A Far Cry From Home*, 1/29 thru 2/1 at 8 pm, Wexner Center, N High St at 15th Ave, OSU, 292-2787. Tickets $12.

Wednesday, Feb 12

Ohio Ballet Company—presented by the Otterbein College Artists Series, 7:30 pm, Cowan Hall, 30 N Grove St, Westerville, 898-1600. Tickets $8, balcony $7.

Thursday, Feb 13 thru 15

Ralph Lemon Company—contemporary dance, narration, music and visual design, 8 pm, Performance Space, Wexner Center, N High St at 15th Ave, OSU, 292-2354. Tickets $12.

Tuesday, Feb 25

Zivili—Yugoslavian dance company presenting *A Concert for the Young at Heart*, with narrative and dance, 10 am, Palace Theatre, 34 W Broad St, 224-2606 or 855-7805. Tickets $2.25.

Thursday, Feb 27 thru 29

BalletMet—John McFall, director, presenting Enrique Martinez's *Coppelia*, music by Leo Delibes, 2/27 & 28 at 8 pm, 2/29 at 2 & 8 pm, Ohio Theatre, 39 E State St, 229-4848. Tickets $11-$36.

lectures

Sunday, Feb 2 thru 28

Columbus Museum of Art—*Cubism Revealed*, tour, 2/2 at 2 pm, and *Masterpieces of Cubism at the Columbus Museum of Art*, gallery talk, 2/4 at 1 pm; *Love Stories*, slide lecture about love stories in art, 2/11 at 1 pm; *Ohio Impressionists*, slide lecture, 2/18 at 1 pm; *Auguste Rodin: The Kiss*, luncheon lecture, 2/19 at 1 pm, fee $15, members $12.50; *Winslow Homer and the American Landscape*, lecture & reception with John Wilmerding of Princeton University, 2/22 at 7:30 pm, tickets $30, members, students & senior citizens $25; *What You Can Get Out of Modern Art*, slide lecture, 2/25 at 1 pm; *American Faces*, 2/28 at noon; Columbus Museum of Art, 480 E Broad St, 221-6801. Free unless otherwise noted.

Thursday, Feb 6 thru 27

Columbus Cultural Arts Center—Conversations & Coffee series, featuring *Teresa Weidenbusch and Elena Osterwalder of Columbus Art League*, 2/6; *painter Kathryn Gough*, 2/13; *painter Ronald Augutis*, 2/20; *Birth of Modern American Painting*, by Tracy Steinbrook, 2/27; all from noon-1 pm, bring sack lunch, Columbus Cultural Arts Center, 139 W Main St, 645-7047. Free.

Thursday, Feb 13

North Community Counseling Centers—*Anxiety*, with psychologist Luke Watson, part of Take Charge of Your Life series, 7-8 pm, Karl Road Library, 5590 Karl Rd, 846-2588. Free.

Riverside Methodist Hospitals—Oliver Wendell Holmes Lecture Series, featuring *Glassical Music*, with Dennis James performing 18th-century works composed for glass instruments by Mozart, Beethoven and JAP Shulz, 12:15-1 pm, Susan H Edwards Aud, Riverside Methodist Hospitals, 3535 Olentangy River Rd, 261-5003. Free.

Wednesday, Feb 19

OSU College of Humanities—Faculty Author Se-

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ries, featuring *Merton Dillon*, professor emeritus of history, discussing his book, *Slavery Attacked: Southern Slaves and Their Allies, 1619-1865*, 7:30-8:30 pm, Little Professor Book Centers, Worthington Square Mall, 292-1882. Free.

for children

CAPA—Ohio Theatre, 39 E State St, 469-0939. *Songs from Sesame Street with Maria and Luis*, 2/1 at 2 pm. Tickets $11.

Columbus Cultural Arts Center—139 W Main St, 645-7047. *Valentine Pop-Up Books*, book construction for ages 8-14, 2/8 from 1-3 pm. Fee $8.

Columbus Junior Theatre—504 N Park St, 224-6672. *Treasure Island*, adapted from the Robert Louis Stevenson novel by Joseph George Caruso, 2/6, 7, 13, 14, 20 & 21 at 7:30 pm; 2/8, 15 & 22 at 2 & 7:30 pm; 2/9, 16 & 23 at 2 & 4 pm. Tickets $7; children, students & senior citizens $6.

Columbus Museum of Art—480 E Broad St, 221-6801. Parent-child workshops: *Mysteries of the Museum*, ages 3-5, 2/2 at 2 pm; *Be Mine*, for ages 3-5, 2/9 at 2 pm, 2/12 at 1 pm, 12/14 at 10:30 am. Fee $9, members $7.

Columbus Music Hall—734 Oak St, 464-0044. *Columbus Symphony Woodwind Quintet*, Firehouse Kids Series, 2/2 at 1:30 pm. Tickets $6.

Columbus Symphony Youth Orchestra—Weigel Hall, Wexner Center, N High St at 15th Ave, OSU, 424-7701 or 486-4145. CSYO concert, Peter S Wilson, conductor; program includes Debussy's *Prelude a l'apres-midi d'un faune*, Dragonetti's *Concerto for Double Bass and Orchestra* and Stravinsky's *Suite from The Firebird*, 2/23 at 3 pm. Tickets $5, children under 12 $3.

Grandview Heights Public Library—1685 W First Ave, 481-3778. *Tellin' Tales*, with local storytellers, 2/28 & 29 at 7 pm, call for free tickets. *Baby Games*, for ages 6-14 months, 2/3 & 10 from 10:30-10:55 am, 2/22 from 11-11:25 am; *Sleepytime Toddler Time*, for ages 18-36 months, 2/5 & 12 from 7-7:30 pm; *Sleepytime Preschool Time*, for ages 3-5, 2/5 & 12 from 7:45-8:15 pm; *Tales for Toddlers*, for ages 18-36 months, 2/4 & 11 from 9:30-10 am & 10:15-10:45 am; *Preschool Storytime*, for ages 3-5, 2/4 & 11 from 11-11:30 am. Free.

Kelton House—586 E Town St, 464-2022. *Children's Valentine Party*, arts & crafts project, museum tour and games, for ages 4-10, 2/7 from 6:30-8:30 pm. Adm $9.

Players Theatre Columbus—Studio II Theatre, Riffe Center, State & High sts, 644-8425. *Appleseed*, life of Johnny Appleseed, by Ed Graczyk, 2/1 at 11 am and 1, 2:30 & 4 pm. *What If the World Was Flat?*, by Steven C Anderson, 2/14 & 21 at 7:30 pm; 2/15 & 22 at 11 am and 1, 2:30 & 4 pm; 2/16 & 23 at 1, 2:30 & 4 pm. Tickets $4.50.

Westerville Senior Center—310 W Main St, Westerville, 890-8544. *Paper bead workshop*, for ages 9-12, 2/22 from 9 am-noon; call for fee information.

festivals

Saturday, Feb 15

Black Culture Festival—talent show, poetry reading, African artifacts, African and soul food, part of Black History Month, 7 pm, Campus Center, Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, 1-368-3145. Free.

sports

Beulah Park Jockey Club—3664 Grant Ave, Grove City, 871-9600. Thoroughbred racing, 2/1, 2, 6 thru 9, 13 thru 17, 19 thru 23 & 26 thru 29 at 12:30 pm. Adm $2.

Big Bear Women's International Tennis Challenge—Celeste Center, state fairgrounds, I-71 & 17th Ave, (800) 394-8366. Women's tennis challenge with Jennifer Capriati, Zina Garrison, Jana Novotna and Martina Navratilova; reception 2/6, call for more information; tournament 2/7 & 8 beginning at 7 pm. Tickets with reception $135; tennis only $19.50-$55.

Buckeye Classic Gymnastics Meet—Lausche Building and Rhodes Center, state fairgrounds, I-71 & 17th Ave, 253-6300. Largest gymnastics meet in country, more than 1,200 women gymnasts of all levels; sponsored by Red Roof Inns, 2/15 beginning at 6:30 pm, 2/16 & 17 beginning at 10 am thru evening. Adm $6, students $4, children 5 and under free.

Columbus Chill—Coliseum, state fairgrounds, I-71 & 17th Ave, 488-4455. Professional hockey; home games: *Cincinnati*, 2/1 & 22 at 7:30 pm; *Louisville*, 2/2 at 2 pm; *Raleigh*, 2/20 at 7:30 pm. Tickets $9, students & children 17 & under $5.

Columbus Horizon—Coliseum, state fairgrounds, 632 E 11th Ave, 299-2100. Professional basketball; home games: *Yakima*, 2/3; *La Crosse*, 2/19; *Bakersfield*, 2/21; *Birmingham*, 2/23; all games at 7:05 pm. Tickets $4, $7 & $10.

Harlem Globetrotters—Ohio Center, 400 N High St, 431-3600. Professional basketball exhibition, 2/24 at 7 pm. Tickets $8-$16.

Ohio State University sports—292-2624.

Basketball, men's—St John Arena. *At Michigan*, 2/2 at 1 pm; *Wisconsin*, 2/5 at 8 pm; *Purdue*, 2/8 at 1 pm; *at Wisconsin*, 2/15 at 1 pm; *at Iowa*, 2/18 at 7:30 pm; *Indiana*, 2/23 at 2 pm; *at Purdue*, 2/26 at 8 pm; *at Michigan State*, 2/29 at 3 pm. Tickets $11, faculty & staff $9.60.

Basketball, women's—St John Arena. Home games: *Michigan State*, 2/2 at 2 pm; *Iowa*, 2/14 at 7:30 pm; *Minnesota*, 2/16 at noon; *Indiana*, 2/21 at 7:30 pm. Tickets $3.50, faculty & staff $3, students $2.

Ice hockey—OSU Ice Rink. Home games: *Bowling Green*, 2/1; *Miami*, 2/8; *to be announced*, 2/14 & 15; *Michigan*, 2/18; *Lake Superior*, 2/28 & 29; all at 7:30 pm. Adm $5, faculty $4, students $2, if standing room only $2.

Arnold Schwarzenegger Classic—Veterans Memorial, 300 W Broad St, 431-3600. *Arnold Schwarzenegger Classic*, featuring male pro bodybuilders from around the world competing for a $200,000 purse, plus women's pro-am *Ms International Contest*; 2/29, prejudging at 10 am, finals at 7 pm; package available including training and banquet. Adm prejudging $25, finals $25 & $50; package $250.

highlight

Country music performer Randy Travis appears at Veterans Memorial Feb. 15. Travis, who won Grammys as best male vocalist in the country category in 1988 and '87, is known for hits "Forever and Ever Amen," "Forever Together" and, currently, "Better Class of Losers." See Concerts.

zoos

The Columbus Zoo—9990 Riverside Dr, Powell (on the Scioto River, Rt 257, four miles N of the intersection of rts 161 & 33), 645-3400. Open 9 am-5 pm daily. Adm $5, senior citizens $4, children 2-11 $3, children under 2 free; parking $2.

museums

Center of Science and Industry (COSI)—280 E Broad St, 228-6361. Four floors of changing science, health, industry and history exhibits, plus planetarium; AnimaLab small animal exhibit; Kidspace and FamilySpace exhibits for children; computerized visitors' center; Jeffrey Coal Mine No 1, daily coal mine tours; old-time black and white films shown daily in the Leo Yassenoff Nickelodeon Theatre. Open Mon-Sat 10 am-5 pm, Sun noon-5:30 pm, closed holidays. Adm $5, students & senior citizens $3, families $15, members free.

Columbus Museum of Art—480 E Broad St, 221-6801. European and American paintings and sculpture, European decorative arts, ethnic arts, Chinese and Japanese art, sculpture park and continuing program of traveling exhibits; group tours are available. **Museum Shop** features gifts, cards, posters, books and other items. Open Tue-Fri 11 am-4 pm, Sat 10 am-5 pm, Sun 11 am-5 pm, closed Mon; museum restaurant, the **Palette Cafe**, open 11:30 am-1:30 pm Tue-Fri & noon-2 pm Sat-Sun. Gen adm free; adm for special exhibitions varies (see Exhibitions).

Ohio Historical Center—I-71 & 17th Ave, 297-2300. Galleries depicting natural and recorded history, archaeology of Ohio; state archives located in three-story block cantilevered over the museum base; operated by the Ohio Historical Society; open Mon-Sat 9 am-5 pm, Sun & holidays 10 am-5 pm. **Ohio Village**, replica village depicting small-town life in Ohio in the 1800s; adjacent to the Ohio Historical Center; call for hours. Adm free; parking $3.

miscellaneous

Saturday, Feb 1 thru 9

Columbus Auto Dealers' New Car Show—2/1 & 8 from 10 am-11 pm; 2/2 & 9 from 11 am-9 pm; 2/3 thru 7 from 4-10 pm, Veterans Memorial, 300 W Broad St, 221-4341 for more information.

Saturday, Feb 1 thru 29

AmeriFlora '92—30-minute tours of Preview Center including site model, renderings, video and construction site; Fri 1-4:15 pm, Sat 10:15 am-3:15 pm, Sun 12:15-3:15 pm (group tours other times by reservation), thru 3/31; AmeriFlora Preview Center, Wolfe Park, E Broad St at Nelson Rd, 645-1933. Free.

Tuesday, Feb 4 thru 9

Ice Capades—50th anniversary edition ice show, 2/4 thru 7 at 7:30 pm; 2/8 at 11:30 am, 3:30 & 7:30 pm; 2/9 at 1 & 5 pm, Ohio Center, 400 N High St, 221-9191 or 431-3600. Tickets $8.50-$16 (half price 2/4).

Saturday, Feb 8 thru 15

United Black World Week—activities at OSU with theme *Strengthing Our Bond Through Education*, part of Black History Month, sponsored by African-American Student Services, including lectures, seminars, performances, films, luncheons, children's activities, worship service, talent show and more, most activities at the Ohio Union, 1739 N High St, OSU, 292-6584 for more information. Most activities free.

Saturday, Feb 8 thru 16

Columbus Sports, Vacation & Travel Show—featuring more than 200 displays on travel, resorts, campgrounds, sports, motor homes and RVs, fishing clinics, and other demonstrations, plus vacation travel specialists from throughout the US and Canada, presented by Dispatch Charities, 2/8, 12 & 15 from noon-9 pm; 2/9 & 16 from noon-6 pm; 2/10, 11, 13, 14 from 4-9 pm, Coliseum & Multipurpose bldgs, state fairgrounds, I-71 & 17th Ave, 644-3247. Adm $5, children under 13 $1.

Saturday, Feb 8 thru 22

Columbus Cultural Arts Center—*Reading and Writing About Love*, creativity in poetry and prose, 2/8 from 1:30-4:30 pm, call for fee; *Communicating Through Art*, art and journal writing to improve communication for individuals and couples, 2/12 from 7-9

pm, fee $3; *Art of Embossing*, 2/22 from 9 am-4 pm, fee $45, Columbus Cultural Arts Center, 139 W Main St, 645-7047.

Saturday, Feb 15

Woody Hayes Celebrity Roast—honoring race car driver Bobby Rahal, with roasters Ben Wright, Tom O'Shaughnessy and David Letterman, hosted by Jimmy Crum, benefiting the Heinzerling Foundation, cocktails 6 pm, dinner 7 pm, roast 8:15 pm, Aladdin Shrine Temple, 3850 Stelzer Rd, 272-8888. Tickets $125, patron $200.

Saturday, Feb 15 & 16

Antiques Show—benefiting Lancaster-Fairfield Community Hospital Twig 14, 2/15 from 11 am-8 pm, 2/16 from noon-5 pm, Holiday Inn, Rt 33, Lancaster, 1-653-8251. Adm $3.

Sunday, Feb 16

Chocolate Fantasy Fair—featuring samples from local and national chocolatiers and other vendors, plus entertainment and demonstrations, benefiting the Central Ohio Lung Association, noon-5 pm, Ohio Center, 400 N High St, 221-6700. Adm $5, children $2.

Thursday, Feb 20 & 29

Grapevine Wreath Workshop—2/20 or 29 at 7 pm, Grandview Heights Public Library, 1685 W First Ave, 486-2951. Fee $12-$15.

Friday, Feb 21 thru 23

Easy Riders Cycle Show—2/21 from 5 pm-midnight, 2/22 from 10 am-midnight, 2/23 from 10 am-6 pm, Veterans Memorial, 300 W Broad St, 221-4341 for more information.

Evironmental Expo—2/21 from 10 am-9 pm, 2/22 from 11 am-9 pm, 2/23 from 11 am-5 pm, Buckeye Bldg, state fairgrounds, I-71 & 17th Ave, 644-3247. Adm $4, children 7-17 $2, children 6 & under free.

Saturday, Feb 22

Gift of Life Night—fund-raiser featuring cocktails, auction and dancing, benefiting the National Kidney Foundation of Ohio, Central Ohio Chapter, 6 pm, Aladdin Shrine Temple, 3850 Stelzer Rd, 481-4030. Tickets $100 per person.

Saturday, Feb 22 & 23

Coin, Stamp & Baseball Card Show—2/22 10 am-6 pm, 2/23 from 10 am-4 pm, Veterans Memorial, 300 W Broad St, 221-4341 for adm information.

Sunday, Feb 23

Columbus Chefs' Cookoff—appetizer and dessert cook-off among 40 restaurants, benefiting the Multiple Sclerosis Society, 2-6 pm, Ramada University Hotel, 3110 Olentangy River Rd, 459-2220. Adm free; food samples $1.

Thursday, Feb 27

Fashion Bouquet—luncheon and style show by Lazarus benefiting March of Dimes, 11:30 am, Hyatt Regency, 350 N High St, 486-5243. Tickets $32.

Friday, Feb 28 thru March 1

Junkomania—flea market, 2/28 from noon-8 pm, 2/29 from noon-6 pm, 3/1 from 9 am-4 pm, Veterans Memorial, 300 W Broad St, 221-4341 for adm information.

Saturday, Feb 29

Emerald Ball—for the Dublin Fund of the Columbus Foundation, cocktails, dinner and dancing, 6:30 pm, Stouffer Dublin Hotel, 600 Metro Place North, Dublin, 889-2001. Tickets $175 per couple.

Women Business Owners' Conference—workshops, focus groups, luncheon, exhibits and presentations, presented by OSU Continuing Education, 8 am-5 pm, Fawcett Center, 2400 Olentangy River Rd, 292-8571. Fee $65, students $35, lunch only $15.

Saturday Feb 29 & March 1

Tennis Auction Ball—auction/ball and tournament to benefit the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation; ball 2/22, Hyatt on Capitol Square, 75 E State St; pro/am tournament on 3/1, Racquet Club, 1100 Bethel Rd; 846-2440 for more information.

Saturday, Feb 29 thru March 8

Central Ohio Home and Garden Show—more than 500 displays featuring landscaped gardens, flower arranging, home improvements, interior decorating, a dream wedding and more, presented by Dispatch Charities, 2/29, 3/4 & 7 from noon-9 pm; 3/1 & 8 from noon-6 pm; 3/2, 3, 5 & 6 from 4-9 pm, Multipurpose Bldg, state fairgrounds, I-71 & 17th Ave, 644-3247. Adm $5, children under 13 $1. ■

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CHEAP EATS

Here are restaurants offering good food at modest prices. An invaluable guide for the budget-minded.

By

JON CHRISTENSEN

With

EMILY FOSTER

Photography by Jeffrey A. Rycus

If you like to eat out, it's great to discover good food. The only thing greater is discovering good cheap food.

To hunt it down, you have to have a sense of adventure. In most instances, you're going to have to look in modest neighborhoods, put up with décor that ranges from eclectic to junky to ugly to nonexistent, and be open-minded in your appreciation of food—so that you enjoy a wide range of foods, especially ethnic dishes.

Some people think that you also have to put up with poor sanitation, but that's not necessary. For instance, one of the best values in town, Firdous, received a score of 100 out of 100 in recent Columbus health department inspections. Sometimes, low overhead may translate into modest surroundings that are often less than spotless. But using Firdous as a case in point, don't feel that you have to give up your sense of cleanliness in order to eat cheaply.

You never should rely exclusively on someone else's list of cheap eats. For one thing, you'll be missing the thrill of discovery. For another, this kind of list goes out of date faster than any other. Fancy restaurants come and go more slowly and more visibly than do the eateries that offer good food at great prices. The cheap eatery can change its nature just by raising prices. And since it's sometimes even more intensely personal and hands-on than the fancier places, it can be affected mightily by illness of or loss of interest by the owner.

Here are some good places for cheap eats in and around Columbus.

A selection from Firdous, clockwise from front left: hummus, chicken, another dish of hummus and two desserts, falafel plate, falafel sandwich and schwarma plate.

Firdous Deli & Café

1528 N. High St., 299-1844

A great value, owned and run by a Palestinian immigrant who is a fanatic about quality. He has tossed out batches of various salads and other foods that have gone a couple of hours past what he considers their prime—or days ahead of all-too-standard restaurant practice. He also buys his meats from sources he personally has inspected and that have agreed to butcher it according to Moslem law, which is similar to kosher law.

His falafel sandwich ($1.95) is made of several deep-fried rounds of ground chickpeas and spices, dressed with sesame sauce and lettuce and tomato in a half-round of pita bread. A great dish for vegetarians. Meat eaters can get a char-grilled kefta (ground spiced beef and lamb) or schwarma (vertical spit-roasted lamb and beef with different spices) sandwich for less than $3 and go away full. Don't overlook the freshly made hot sauce.

Leave room for Jerusalem salad (cucumber, lettuce and tomato minced with mint and sesame dressing) and the baklava-style desserts ($1 to $1.25) that are done to professional pastry shop standards and that go so well with the Arabian coffee.

The extremely modest décor is made up of linoleum floor, Formica tabletops and painted walls. There's off-street parking next door—unusual for campus-area eateries.

Sinbad's

2620 N. High St., 263-2370

An older Mid-Eastern restaurant that serves good kefta and falafel in platters accompanied by competent hummus (ground chickpeas mixed with lemon juice, garlic and sesame paste) and tabbouleh (parsley-based salad mixed with cracked wheat and seasoned with lemon juice and olive oil). Prices are roughly comparable to those at Firdous. So is the décor.

Siam Oriental Restaurant

855 Bethel Rd., 451-1109

A professionally run, white-tablecloth restaurant, but for less than $6 at lunchtime you can graze at the buffet on some of the town's best Thai food. Unlike most all-you-can-eat offers, this is not some kind of feeding trough with all kinds of cheap slop being held for hours at a time over the steam tables. Instead, there's a good selection of Chinese and Thai dishes, including the General Tso's chicken that is this restaurant's signature dish. In addition to the lack of cheap fillers, the dishes are prepared in relatively small batches. This means constant refilling of the steam table trays and high quality for a buffet.

Bangkok Restaurant

3277 Refugee Rd., 231-6878

At the other end of the Thai scale, this place used to be almost invisible behind the Bangkok's large Oriental grocery store. But success has allowed the owners to expand. The restaurant is now much larger and even has its own door to the outside. The inside is decorated according to whatever was free or on sale at the time: nonmatching cabinets, counters, floors, tables, booths.

The most attractive part is the arrangement on the plate of pad Thai, the national noodle dish made with rice noodles sautéed with shrimp, pork, peanuts and bean sprouts. While the version here doesn't have the complex flavors of the pad Thai at Siam, it costs only $3.95 and is visually appealing. Try some other noodle dishes at the same price, especially the wide rice noodles seared with your choice of beef, pork, shrimp or duck. And if you're a chili head, you'll be pleased this is one restaurant that takes you at your word if you tell the server you want your food hot.

Sun Tong Luck Tea House & Restaurant

6517 E. Livingston Ave., 863-2828

You can get a basic assortment of dim sum pastries (rice or

wheat dough filled with meats, seafood, beans etc.) for $1.50 or $2 a pop, ordering the filling dishes one at a time if you wish. To do your meal classical Cantonese-style, also order one of the dozens of noodle dishes for $6 to $8 and split it with a friend. To choose, decide on the noodle you want (what size, whether made from wheat or rice, whether steamed or stir-fried), what ingredients you want (meats, seafood and/or vegetables) and what kind of saucing (light, brown, black bean etc.). Let the servers know, and they'll help you pick from the all-Chinese menu.

Shangri-La

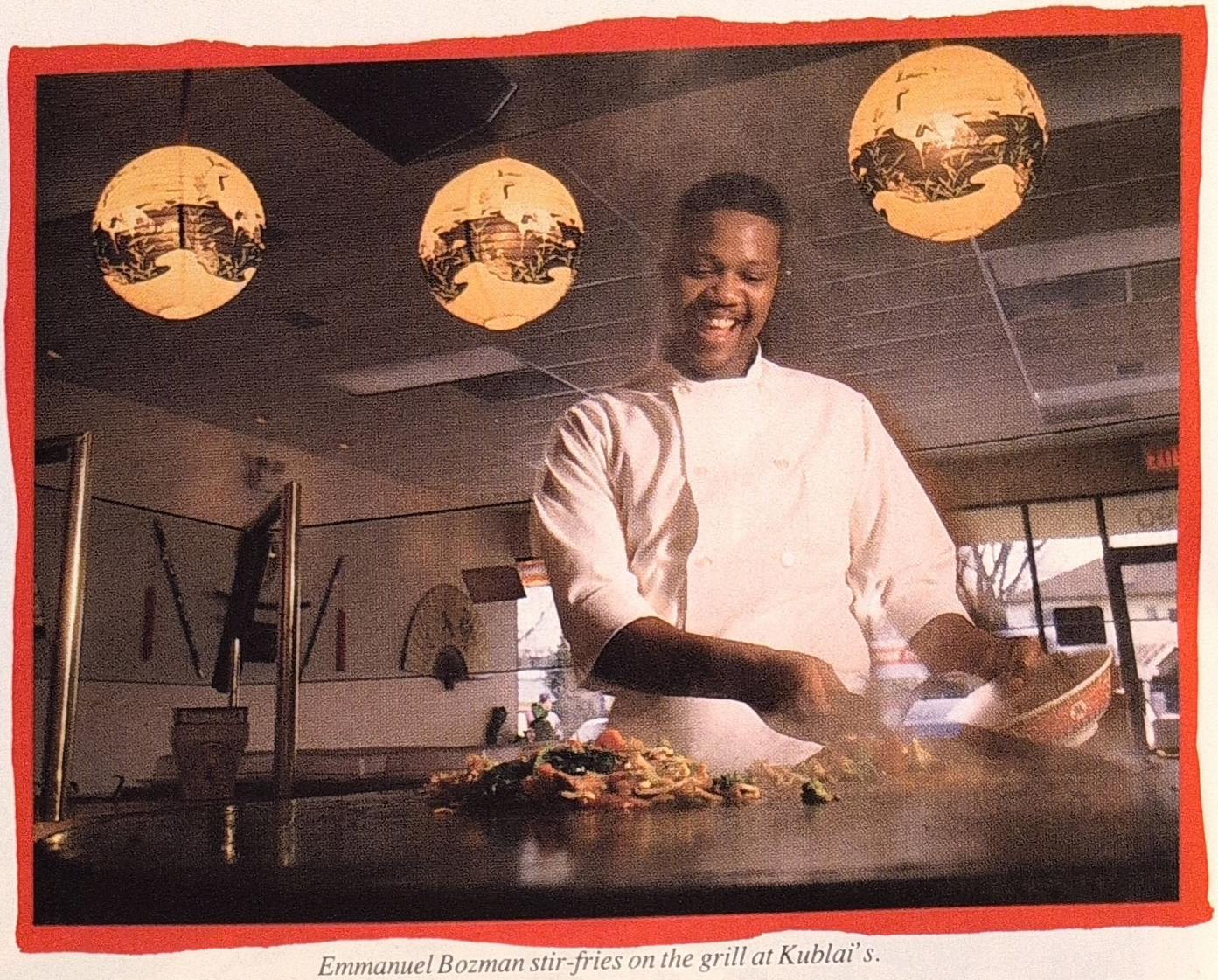
3750 Cleveland Ave., 471-5400

Another modest operation with really interesting Chinese food. It's a small place with two tiny dining rooms (one of which is nonsmoking). Ask for the special menu as well as the regular. If you're there on a Sunday or Monday, check out one of the Hong Kong-style soups ($3.75 to $4.95) that are so hearty you can make a meal out of them. Noodle lovers should try the fried kwai tiu at $6.95, broad rice noodles stir-fried with strips of Chinese sausage, shrimp and fresh bean sprouts and spiced gently with some chili. Enough for two people.

Fortune Chinese Restaurant

2869 Olentangy River Rd., 263-1991

You'll find Hong Kong-style soups served every day at reasonable prices ($3.95 to $4.35), along with a modest dim sum assortment. The "soups" are meant to be a meal. The won-ton noodle version, for instance, is made with fresh won-ton noodles that enclose ground meat—a far cry from the reconstituted-tasting kind you expect in the won-ton soup that's thrown in with the entree at so many Chinese restaurants. The dim sum at Fortune runs $1.60 for most items, but also will include a number of noodle dishes, such as the shredded pork over pan-fried noodles ($6.55—these are real chow mein noodles).



Emmanuel Bozman stir-fries on the grill at Kublai's.

Fortune is inside a former Mexican-style restaurant with much of the basic décor still in place.

Joy's Village

2060 N. High St., 297-7723

If Fortune is too fancy for you, go to the basement strip shopping center under the Ohio Stater Inn. The atmosphere at Joy's is that of a fast-food operation, and $7.95 is the top price on the menu. The most interesting items are the specials written on large pieces of paper stuck on the walls.

Kublai's Mongolian Barbecue

1290 W. Fifth Ave., 488-4631

This is a newcomer to town. For $4.95 (meat) or $3.50 (vegetarian), diners construct a meal-in-a-bowl out of vegetables and thin-sliced meats, pour on one or more of the "sauces," such as soy or garlic water, turn the mixture over to a cook who throws it on a communal hot plate, stir-fries it and sends it to the table along with soup and rice. The selection isn't huge, so you probably wouldn't eat here five days a week, but as an occasional dinner, it's fresh and attractive.

At Pasta Amore, clockwise from left, are cold pasta with vegetables, spinach fettuccine and eggplant combo and pasta in olive oil with garlic and artichokes.

Sadabo Café and Phnom Penh Palace

A Japanese yakitori (grilled meats) emporium named Sadabo, reviewed in this issue (page 75), offers a few modestly priced but filling entrees, such as the beef bento for $4.95. Also reviewed in this issue, the Phnom Penh Palace features very filling Cambodian soups for as little as $3.50 and a number of noodle and meat dishes for $3 to $4.

Twins

2203 N. High St., 421-0005

With fluorescent lights and plastic tablecloths, Twins on North High near OSU has a no-nonsense ambiance, but it's a favorite among Korean students looking for their version of a home-cooked

Seon Hee Han with an assortment of foods from Twins.

meal. Expect huge portions of a cuisine long on garlic and hot chilies. The saewoo bokeum ($6.50) tosses shrimp and vegetables in a spicy sauce. Dol bibim bab ($6.50) is mixed vegetables, meat and rice served in a sizzling hot earthenware bowl and topped with a fried egg. Bibim bab ($6) is the meatless version. Hot and cool side dishes, which come with the meal, range from tiny fried fish to the fiery national dish, kim chee. You'll get a stick of gum with the bill. You'll need it.

Tucson's Cafe

2465 E. Dublin-Granville Rd., 523-2000

The leader in Southwest/ Mexican cuisine is an informal eatery in a strip shopping center. The offhand ambiance says "low overhead," and the prices have been pretty reasonable for food that has been at least good and sometimes excellent. At $5.95, for instance, there's the Taco Grande, a large soft shell filled with either chicken or beef, the restaurant's borrachos beans, black olives, onions and cheese, accompanied by Mexican rice and a good quantity of a simple Romaine salad. Tucson's shows gratifying attention to detail—careful selection of authentic chilies and other ingredients, fine salsas, nice presentations.

BRAD FEINKNOPF/RYCUS ASSOC.

At Plank's are, from left, John, Tom and Walt Plank. They're holding plates of beef and noodles and franks, ribs and kraut.

Estrada's

240 King Ave., 294-0808

At the low end of the price scale is a newer Mexican restaurant south of OSU. The owner-chef, who says he learned what he calls Guadalajara-style Mexican cooking from his mother, is doing it right: Starting with a modest location that's already got equipment (a former pizza joint), making the most of the equipment (he makes his own lard-free refried beans in one of the pizza ovens), and keeping the menu simple. His huge beef, chicken and bean burritos are only $1.39 to $1.69 each (bean-only for 99 cents). The 99-cent nachos are made with real cheeses. The homemade fresh salsa is daringly seasoned with cilantro.

Instead of being steamed, which is more common, the tortillas used in making the burritos and soft tacos ($1.09 to $1.19) are first tossed on a red-hot grill for a few seconds. If they don't puff up (a sign of freshness, says the owner), they're thrown out.

Recent additions to the menu include stuffed peppers ($4.75 to $5.25) served with mounds of side dishes, rice and beans seasoned with cilantro, cheese, corn chips, onions and sour cream for $1.99, soft-corn tacos, and elaborate eggs poached in regular or spicy cheese sauce and served with cheese rolls and mashed beans and chips—all for $4.95.

North Market Cafe

29 Spruce St., 621-2233

For eclectic assortments of foods, including both

standard and offbeat (applejack pancakes for $2.75, farmer-style frittata for $4.50) breakfast fare served all day, visit the North Market Cafe. You also can get daily specials and entree-size salads in the $5 range. For instance, on Tuesday the stir-fry ($4.25) has lots of Occidental veggies and bean sprouts stir-fried with a modest quantity of beef and mounded over a large quantity of white rice.

Plank's Cafe

743 Parsons Ave., 443-6251

Known to regulars as Plank's on Parsons, to distinguish it from Plank's Bier Garten, this bar-with-food draws a faithful clientele of eaters, who chow down on hearty steam-table fare such as beef and noodles ($4.25), ribs and kraut ($4.95) and franks and kraut ($4.95). A marinated chicken breast meal ($6.95) has been added to appeal to the white-collar set. The décor is OSU sports photos and bar art.

Queen Bee

248 S. Fourth St., 221-4710

The joke is the Queen Bee is the safest eatery in town, because it's a hangout for Columbus police. As friendly as Grandma's kitchen, where the art on the walls is jigsaw puzzles glued into frames, the diner serves unexciting food at basic prices. Daily specials include stick-to-the-ribs Johnny Marzetti, Salisbury steak and liver and onions, along with Greek dishes such as moussaka and pastitsio. Entrees are accompanied by two sides. The meatloaf ($2.75) has the distinct bite of black pepper. Bill Cohen of WOSU Radio, who eats here regularly, recommends Tuesday's roast chicken with dressing or rice pilaf ($3.50).

Stan's

4333 Westerville Rd., 471-3844

One of the most famous Columbus purveyors of low-cost food, Stan's is a plain building set in the middle of a large parking lot that is often impossibly full of cars. Inside there are three sometimes smoky dining areas decorated in the style of the 1950s burger-in-a-basket places. The traditional food includes a well-known meatloaf and brown gravy dinner for $4.59, served with whipped potatoes (made from scratch, with a brown meat gravy) and a side salad or vegetable, along with a couple of slices of old-fashioned white bread.

There's also half a pound of mild, freshly cooked country-style sausage for the same price—another great buy. Non-meat eaters will want to spend 30 cents more on a large serving of fresh-tasting haddock that's breaded and deep-fried competently, with the same side dishes. Not that there aren't plenty of a la carte sides to tempt you, such as the

homemade hash browns ($1.09) that really do taste fresh.

In spite of the huge servings, save room for the desserts, such as the made-in-Powell pecan roll that's cut in half and grilled ($1.19) and the amazing assortment of homemade pies (all priced at $1.19—add 39 cents for a la mode). The black raspberry pie is competent, with a truly traditional crust, while the banana cream pie is amazingly good and honest for this kind of price.

How do they do it? A large volume of traffic, fast service for fast turnovers of tables, no credit cards and a number of production line touches, such as having the bus boys (who don't bother to take off their hats) cart out trays of orders for the friendly waitresses.

Bill Knapp's

6851 N. High St., 846-4030, and 2199 Riverside Dr., 488-1139

These restaurants are institutions in town, bustling, friendly, noisy, family-style eateries with a homey atmosphere, good places to take mothers-in-law and kids. Although they serve the multitudes, the dining rooms are small enough that you won't feel you're eating in a train station. Diners tout the Southern fried chicken with a side of puréed pumpkin (a quarter chicken, $5.69), the crabcakes ($6.29) and chicken fricasee with gravy over biscuits ($5.19). Meals come with two side dishes.

Bun's Restaurant

6-8 W. Winter St., Delaware, 1-363-3731 and 1-362-9951

If you live on the north side of town, you've probably heard of Bun's in Delaware, an unusual combination of down-home cooking and more adventuresome eating. For traditionalists, there's the hot roast beef sandwich with made-from-scratch whipped potatoes, gravy and cole slaw for $5.25 and a slew of other sandwich-type meals for under $5, such as a ⅓-pound hamburger with fries and slaw for $3.65. But you also can find main course salads for $5.25 and such daily specials as fried perch with fries and slaw ($5.95), manicotti and tossed salad ($6.25) and even a vegetarian plate ($5.50) that you make up yourself by choosing four side dishes. Many items come with fresh-baked rolls from the restaurant's bakery, which also produces its famous pies for $1.50 a slice.

Enrico's Pizza & Restaurant

5788 Frantz Rd., 766-6900

For good Italian food from a limited menu at reasonable prices, this place looks mostly like a pizza house with tables—which is what much of its business really is. But there also are some dinners with homemade pastas for $5.95, including a nice tossed salad (Italian dressing) and a hard roll. The gnocchi are the semolina type and are dressed with a traditional Italian-American marinara sauce. The stars of the homemades are the huge ravioli. The cheese version is filled with an enticing mix of ricotta and other cheeses seasoned with herbs, and the pasta wrap is delectable.

These ravioli would shame many a high-priced restaurant, and are worth a trip to Enrico's. Don't overlook the single-serving-size seven-inch pizzas ($2.55 for plain cheese), which are made with real cheese and crust and are large enough for a one-dish meal.

K2U

641 N. High St., 221-4766

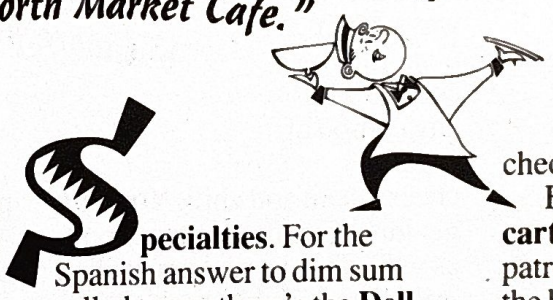
This artsy bar is not a mashed potatoes and gravy sort of place. Instead of large portions, you get more imaginative dishes than you'll find elsewhere. The southern-fried catfish with hushpuppies and slaw ($6) is a staple here, as is the unusual North Beach Joe's special ($4.50), a spiced-up hash of eggs, spinach, mushrooms and ground beef. For a meatless meal, there is the roasted vegetables with pasta and a cumin vinaigrette ($5).

King Avenue Coffeehouse

247 King Ave., 294-8287

Don't expect meat at the vegetarian King Avenue Coffeehouse, but the food is flavorful and filling. For lunch or dinner, $3.25 buys a plate of hot spicy noodles served with a peanut sauce with strong garlic overtones. The hummus plate with pita is another good deal at $3.65. At Sunday brunch the eggs Florentine ($6.95) with fresh spinach and hollandaise sauce are rich proof that meatless doesn't mean lean. Service at this counterculture establishment can be a bit spacey, but the coffeehouse has probably the biggest selection of teas, tisanes and coffees in town.

"For eclectic assortments of foods, including both standard and offbeat breakfast fare—applejack pancakes for $2.75, farmer-style frittata for $4.50—served all day, visit the North Market Cafe."



Specialties. For the Spanish answer to dim sum called tapas, there's the **Dell Restaurant and Tapas Bar** at 115 Parsons Ave. As with dim sum, you graze among the fine assortment of tapas that range in price from $2.25 to $4.95.

Pasta lovers up north may want to check out Nancy Moretti's **Pasta Amore** at 14 Dillmont Dr. off Rt. 23. Daily specials of homemade pasta dishes, such as fettuccine in cream sauce, will cost $6 with a choice of house salad or soup.

The Bahama Mama at the various **Schmidt's** locations costs only a few dollars with a side of German potato salad and is plenty of good-quality, somewhat spicy food.

Barbecue lovers can do a lot worse than **Rib Tickler's** at 782 Bethel Rd. Try the finely flavored, mostly lean pork sandwich at $2.50 with a side of collard greens for 75 cents, or step up to a half slab of ribs for $6.95. Just don't expect fancy surroundings.

Followers of ethnic food, Buffalo-style, will keep track of Buffalo wings at **BW3**'s 7 E. Woodruff and 1608 N. High locations: Tuesday night at the former and Wednesday night at the latter are the sale nights for 15-cent wings, available in four heat ranges from mild to wild.

The most informal recommendation for eating inexpensively is the food operation at each of the two **Andersons General Stores**. The hot dogs are only 99 cents, but they're well above standard supermarket quality. Decent subs, made with real cheeses, meat and French bread, cost less than $2 for a 4-incher. Salads range from simple to chef-style, seem to be always fresh and run between $1 and $2. Among drinks, hot tea can run as little as 25 cents. For dessert, there's always a selection of professionally made (in the best sense of the word) pies and cakes for less than $2 a serving. Even the condiments have a fancy twist to them, with Grey Poupon packets of mustard. Needless to say, don't expect fancy amenities—you'll be eating near the checkout registers.

For wine lovers, **A la carte's** policy of allowing patrons to choose a wine from the huge selection at the attached wine store for state minimum price plus a modest corkage fee turns just about any meal there into a relatively cheap one. To go with the wine, there's always an interesting central European entree or two at a moderate price (less than $10) among the daily specials. The restaurant is located a few blocks north of OSU at 2333 N. High St.

Hamburgers and fries. You still can eat cheaply at any number of restaurants if you like huge hamburgers served with the trimmings. Take **Gottlieb's**, an operation with northwest and east side locations. As at most restaurants, the regular entrees are priced higher at dinner than at lunch, but the sandwiches, large salads and soups survive the transition, together with the grilled steakburgers, which

cost $4.45 with cottage fries, freshly made cole slaw, and a basket of bread. Prices like those are competitive with a lot of fast-food operations.

A longtime favorite with loaded burgers is the **Gahanna Bar & Grill**, located in a plain white stucco building at 82 Granville St. in Gahanna. The Beanie Burger is named after owner Beanie Vesser. For $2.50 you get the huge slab of ground beef topped by two rashers of bacon, fried onions, finely minced slaw, and tomato. At this price, you'll have to pay a bit extra for the sides. The side of choice is the home fries ($1.50), made fresh on the premises but, alas, available only in the evenings. The friendly bar and grill atmosphere may lead you to try some of the daily specials, such as the fine meatloaf ($3.95 with sides) and a half-carafe of wine for $2.75.

Another restaurant with huge burgers is **Mac's Cafe** at 693 N. High St. If you order the basic burger with steak fries, you'll pay $4.25 and receive not only the burger but more potato than one person can eat. The potatoes also are served with the low-priced Scottish specialties, such as the forfar bridie ($4.95), a type of pasty filled with beef and onion and served with the spuds and gravy. Salad lovers can get a side salad for only a dollar extra.

Then there's Sally's hillbilly cheeseburger ($3.55) as served up by the **Red Door Tavern**, a Tri-Village-area institution. It's not a regular cheeseburger but a thick slice of bologna that's been fried hard on each side (for flavor and to drive off much of the grease) and presented on a hamburger bun with hot pepper cheese, lettuce and tomato. It actually tastes a lot better than it sounds. The Red Door also serves reasonably priced dinners such as the competently done deep-fried haddock ($6.50), which should be ordered with the rough-cut and flavorful wedge fries. A large assortment of draft beers is available, including flavorful Columbus Pale Ale. Whatever you order, save room for the homemade pies and cakes ("If Ruth is baking," the menu has proclaimed for 27 years). They range from good to excellent in prices from $1.70 to $1.95.

Chains. Then there are the chains, which can bring their buying power and portion control management to bear on the cost of eating out. An easy favorite for a combination of character and value are the **White Houses** units out of Georgia. There are four in this area. They never close, not even on Christmas Day. There's no mystery about when what's available from the menu: all items, 24 hours a day.

The waffles ($1.70) really are good. They're cooked right in front of you in the diner-style setup. With orange juice and a slice of lightly smoked ham they cost $3.95. Egg-oriented people can have all the usual combinations, including diner-style omelets, for $2.20. Hash browns come five different ways, from plain to cooked with any combo of onions, cheese, ham and chili. You can get lunch and dinner-type food as well. Two large, lean, well-grilled pork chops, hash browns and bread cost $4.35. As is usually the case with home-style cooking, the dessert of choice is pie ($1.10), here of acceptable quality.

Of the fun-food chains, **Duit's** seems to do the most consistent job in this area. Their specialty seems to be adaptations of Southwestern-style cooking, such as the taquitos ($5.95), four corn tortilla shells filled with lean chicken and flecks of green onion and green chili and rolled up and baked with a generous quantity of cheese. The accompanying guacamole is more flavorful than you'd expect at these prices, and the mild salsa has a clean, fresh taste. This is very filling food, so hold off on the appetizers unless you're starved. Duit's also can do an excellent job with non-Southwest items, such as the beer batter fried fish and chips ($5.45), which are fresh tasting and surrounded by really crispy and well-fried batter. The chips are flavorful cottage curly fries. A large Caesar salad ($3.75) has more flavor than versions found in a number of supposedly classier restaurants.

Bob Evans, a locally grown chain with 14 locations, does a good job with Midwest cuisine in a country kitchen decor. While the lunch prices look a bit steep to bargain-hunters, dinners look relatively cheap. One specialty is catfish, served charbroiled ($6.25) or breaded and fried ($6.25) with two sides. Other regular items are chicken and noodles ($4.95) and, of course, meatloaf ($5.75). Changing daily dinner specials come with two sides, and none exceeds $6.

Chi-Chi's, with four locations, is a little pricier than Duit's and not as flavorful, but you can certainly load up on plenty of Americanized "Mexican" food for less than $7. Their taquitos ($5.99) are made with flour rather than corn tortillas and are accompanied by toned-down chili, salsa and sour cream in addition to the universal sides of refried beans and Spanish rice. With the complimentary chips and salsa you munch on while waiting for your order, you're bound to go away full.

Cooker is a very popular, locally-based mini-chain of restaurants offering traditional food at reasonable prices. As with Stan's, be prepared to spend time waiting to get in. However, unlike Stan's and just about every other homestyle operation, you can be seated in a nonsmoking section. One of Cooker's most popular items is a flavorful meatloaf ($6.45). Besides a huge serving of meatloaf and gravy, you get two sides (macaroni and cheese, baked yellow squash, from-scratch mashed potatoes with gravy, cottage cheese etc.) and a basket of excellent drop biscuits. Cooker does many things well by paying attention to such details as using freshly ground coffee beans to make the coffee.

La Bon Pain opened its doors just before Christmas at City Center, where Schmidt's had been located. In a bright, busy location, with the fresh aroma of baking goods and good coffee, La Bon Pain offers a number of inexpensive options. The sandwich bars (at $3.99) allow the patron to sample the breads (a darker, crusty roll being our favorite). At $1.89, a cup of the New England clam chowder is tasty and hearty, and the tomato Florentine is an attractive, light, herbed tomato broth, with medium pasta shells and the spinach that gives the soup its name. The salads, starting at $1.89, have appealing dressings such as olive oil vinaigrette with basil. For less than $5, a generous cup of soup, a half sandwich and a cup of darkly roasted fresh Costa Rican coffee can be a satisfying lunch. Croissants — plain, flavored, and filled — espresso and cappuccino also are available throughout the day. As Bon Pain is in the high-rent district, but provides more reasonably priced offerings than you would expect.

As long as one remembers it serves American-style Italian food, not the real thing, one can find satisfaction at the **Olive Garden**; many diners swear by it, in fact. For value, it's hard to discount meals here, accompanied as they are by the bottomless salad bowl and the breadsticks.

The two Columbus locations of **Applebee's** serve a youthful menu with muted ethnic tastes. Yet one of the best buys is good old-fashioned chicken pot pie ($6.25), served with a tossed salad. The fajita quesadilla ($5.95) is lighter fare but enough to make a meal. ■

"Another restaurant with huge burgers is Mac's Cafe. If you order the basic burger with steak fries, you'll pay $6.25 and receive not only the burger but more potato than one person can eat."

Jon Christensen is a contributing editor of Columbus Monthly. Emily Foster is a senior editor.

Up north, a giant grows

IT'S HARD TIMES FOR DEVELOPERS, YET THREE COLUMBUS MEN ARE WORKING ON A MASSIVELY AMBITIOUS PROJECT NORTH OF I-270: THE $2 BILLION POLARIS. AND THEY'RE STILL SMILING.

MARY LOU UTTERMOHLEN

At the site, from left: Don Kelley, Bob Echele and Bob Weiler.

BY HERB COOK JR.

It doesn't *look* like $2 billion. It looks, now, mostly like frozen cornfields—hard, flat, empty land that only a farmer could really love. Down a gravel drive, about 50 yards south of the two-lane road that cuts through the middle of the cornfields, sits a nondescript white farmhouse, the kind you expect kids to pop out of every morning just in time to catch the yellow bus on its way to Olentangy High School.

But there are no children here, and the farmhouse isn't a farmhouse anymore. It's the headquarters of NP Limited Partnership, and inside it's all white walls and track lights and maps. Lots of maps.

Bob Echele (pronounce it "Eckl") spends a good bit of his time with the maps, reviewing them, changing them, negotiating which lines go where, who owes what to whom, how much all of it will cost. As NP Limited's managing partner, Echele loves that part of his job enough to spend sometimes 15 hours a day in the white farmhouse.

What Echele loves most, though, is to step outside, hop in his car and drive about a mile east through the fields to the newest interchange on I-71, the interchange he worked five years to build, and the one that now seems almost certain to make him a wealthy man.

The Polaris Parkway interchange sits just two miles north of I-270, the Columbus outerbelt. Standing atop the new overpass at its dedication last October, Echele managed a pretty fair Kevin Costner imitation. "If you build it," he said, "they will come. Listen in the cornfields. The cornfields were whispering that five years ago."

Bob Echele and his partners, though, didn't build a baseball field as Costner did in *Field of Dreams*. They built a bridge and some concrete ramps. And the reward for their labor won't be a visit from Shoeless Joe Jackson, but the developer's share of the profits from Central Ohio's largest commercial project ever—the Polaris Centers of Commerce.

If all goes according to plan, Polaris in 20 years will be the commercial heart of northern Central Ohio, a $2 billion agglomeration of offices, industrial buildings, hotels, restaurants and stores filling nearly 1,300 acres on both sides of the new interchange. Its centerpiece, announced last November, is to be a $200 million retail mall, an upscale fashion mecca with as many as five anchor stores and marquee names like Saks Fifth Avenue, Nieman Marcus and Bloomingdale's.

If Polaris indeed "builds out" at $2 billion or more, it will be a stunning achievement, worth as much as everything built in downtown Columbus in the past 20 years. The proposed Polaris mall will be nearly twice as large as Columbus City Center. Polaris's planned eight million square feet of office space will be four times as large as the Huntington Center and the Riffe Center combined. Polaris will offer travelers 4,500 hotel rooms—more than twice as many as all the hotels in downtown Columbus. Polaris will be, in a word, huge.

Like any massive real estate project, Polaris also is hugely ambitious and full of risk. Even as Echele ticks off the impressive projections, NP Limited's other two general partners, Bob Weiler and Don Kelley, sound a cautionary note. "You can't avoid some down cycles during a 20-year project," says Weiler. And indeed the commercial real estate business seems to be smack in the middle of one such cycle, perhaps the worst since the early '70s. Nobody's building speculative office buildings, and new hotel rooms aren't even a rumor.

Even as other developers flop and flounder through loan work-outs, liquidations and foreclosures, though, Echele, Weiler and Kelley remain upbeat. They're all commercial real estate pros; collectively they have more than 100 years of experience in appraising, building, buying and selling everything from duplex apartments to downtown office towers. Show them a cornfield that's just a mile from an interstate highway, just 12 miles north of Broad and High streets, and they see not brown stalks and frozen dirt but . . . possibilities.

"The land in Orange Township, north of Lazelle, was still mostly cornfields. And nobody—certainly not Bob Echele—planned for Columbus to break historic precedent by annexing into Delaware County."

Echele came to Columbus in the 1970s to develop Busch Corporate Center—Anheuser-Busch's office park between Rt. 161 and I-270, just south of the Budweiser brewery. As he drove up and down I-71 on trips to Cleveland, he sometimes pondered what might happen in southern Delaware County if there were an interchange on the 10-mile stretch from I-270 north to St. Rt. 37.

And then about five years ago, Echele recalls, he noticed a "for sale" sign on a piece of farmland just north of the Franklin County line in Delaware County's Orange Township. There wasn't much useful road frontage, and the farm—nearly 400 acres—was oddly shaped and difficult to reach. Still, there were those possibilities. "I said to myself, 'Say, maybe there will be an interchange someday,' " Echele says. Before long he was chatting with Weiler and Kelley, hoping they might invest in his dream.

Initially Echele wanted to be the sole general partner, the entrepreneur who'd use the investments of his passive limited partners to make a lot of money for everyone. But when it comes to real estate, Weiler and Kelley are anything but passive. They liked Echele and thought he'd done a great job at Busch Corporate Center, but they weren't about to put their own cash behind another man's dream and just walk away.

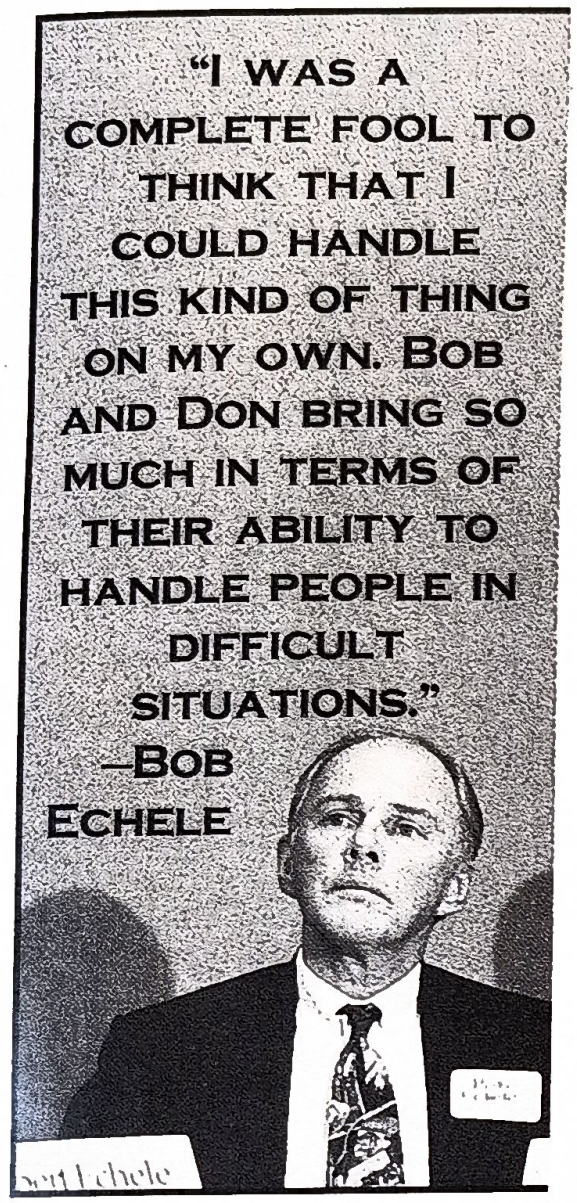
Weiler and Kelley each own independent real estate appraisal and brokerage firms, but ever since they traveled together to the Rose Bowl in 1968 to watch Ohio State play for the national championship, they've been close friends and business partners. "Bob feels free to make commitments for me," says Kelley, "and I feel free to make commitments for him." Together they've developed more than 5,000 apartment units, and they manage thousands more. "Don and I have had differences of opinion," says Weiler, "but over 25 years our relationship has been as close to family as you're going to get."

With that kind of bond, it was almost a given that if Weiler and Kelley invested in Polaris at all, they'd invest together. The unknown variable in the equation was whether Echele could deliver on his promise to get an I-71 interchange for Polaris. "Bob was telling us the interchange was 99 percent certain," says Weiler. "I discounted that by half. Don and I talked privately and asked ourselves, 'Where would we be without the interchange?' Even if we didn't get the interchange, I thought we could make a modest profit."

Echele didn't have enough cash or borrowing power to buy 1,200 acres on his own, even at prices that started as low as $5,000 per acre. So it didn't take him long to agree to Weiler's and Kelley's insistence on a three-way general partnership. In hindsight, Echele says, "I was a complete fool to think that I could handle this kind of thing on my own. Bob and Don bring so much in terms of their ability to handle people in difficult situations."

Weiler and Kelley also brought cash, tapping both their own bankrolls and those of their relatives. Together the two families have put up more than half of the $14 million that's been invested in Polaris so far. Weiler and Kelley say Polaris is by far the biggest investment either family has ever made. They also say the fact that Polaris has so much equity and so little debt—only about $5 million to date—will be a major reason the huge project succeeds while much less ambitious ventures are failing. "We're not used to putting a lot of cash in deals," says Kelley. In other circumstances, says Weiler, they might have borrowed most of the money, "but we didn't want to be forced to make the wrong choice to sell because we had to pay a mortgage lender."

In addition to the Weiler and Kelley clans, some limited partners invested just because they liked Bob Echele. Lee Hess, a Wendy's vice president, says he and Echele often play "pickleball"—a game he describes as a cross between volleyball and ping-pong—and he'd been hearing about Echele's dream of a new I-71 interchange for years. When the dream seemed likely to become a reality, Hess invested $75,000. Thomas Moloney, Polaris's law-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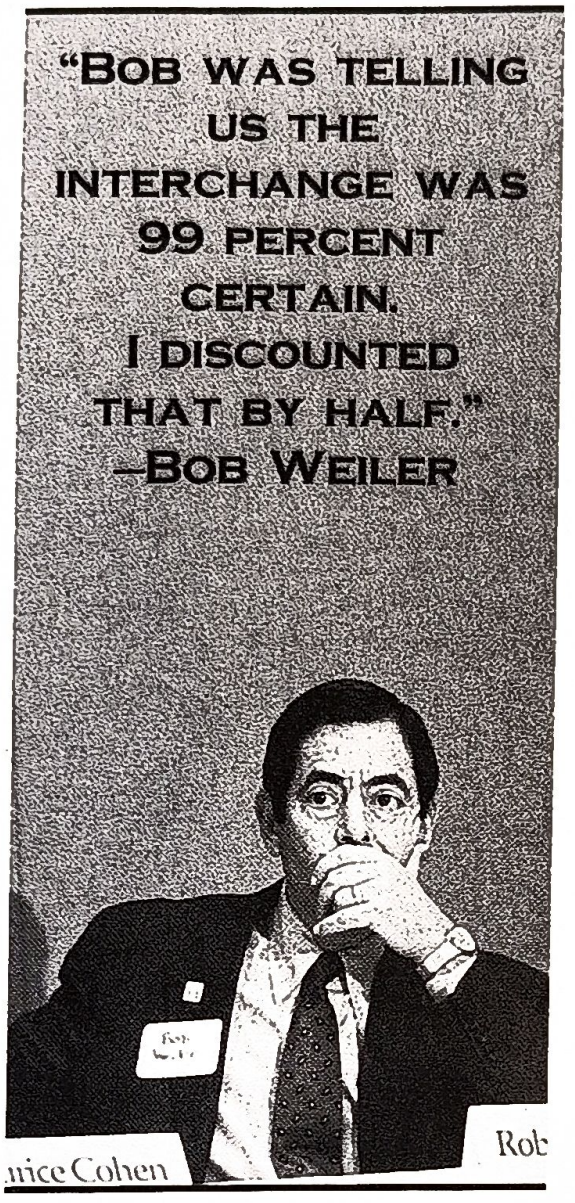
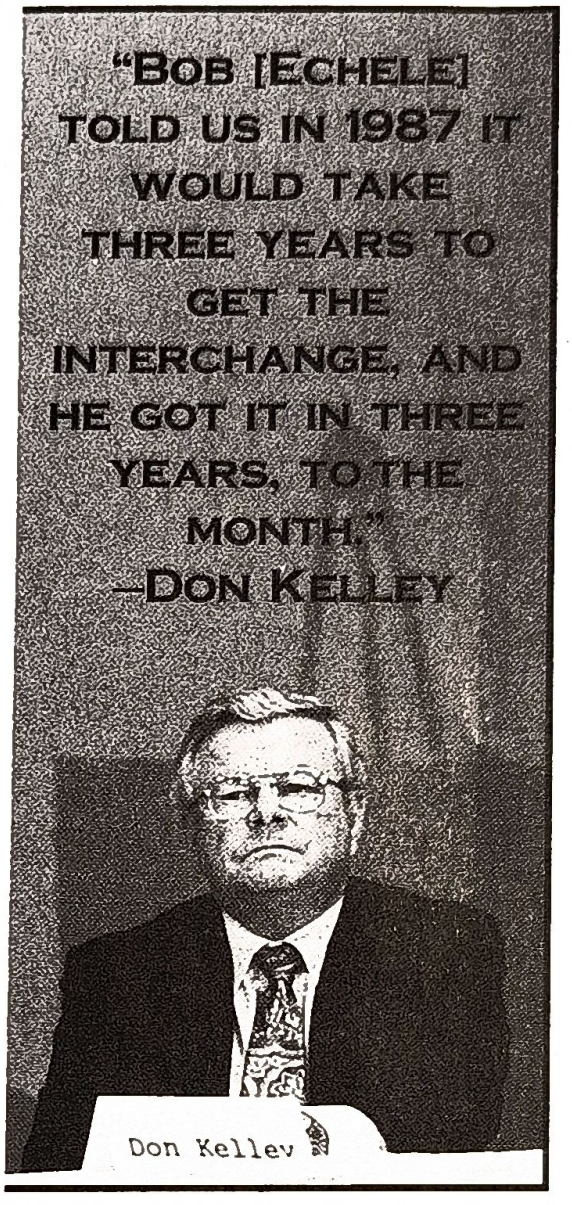



"BOB [ECHELE] TOLD US IN 1987 IT WOULD TAKE THREE YEARS TO GET THE INTERCHANGE, AND HE GOT IT IN THREE YEARS, TO THE MONTH."
–DON KELLEY
Don Kelley

yer at Baker & Hostetler, liked the deal well enough to risk $50,000. And George and Linda Wallingford, whose Orange Township farmland was a crucial part of the Polaris plan, decided they'd rather have some equity than cash. They traded part of their land for a $1 million limited partnership stake.

Securing the 36 parcels of land Polaris needed, indeed, turned out to be the easiest part of the project. Echele began making offers on anything north of Lazelle Road, west of Worthington-Galena Road, south of Powell Road and east of Old State Road. By 1988 he had most of the 1,286 acres purchased or under option, at prices averaging about $10,000 per acre. That was high by Delaware County cornfield standards, but ridiculously low for high-density commercial development. In northeast and northwest Columbus, by contrast, good commercial sites with easy freeway access routinely sell for $100,000 per acre and up.

Polaris, of course, didn't *have* easy freeway access in 1986 and 1987. It had no freeway access at all. There were some upscale housing projects nearby—Highland Lakes, Loch Lomond, the Retreat, the Woods at Bale Kenyon—but not a hint of commercial development. Bob Echele's formidable tasks were first to secure a $5.4 million "curb cut" to give Polaris access to I-71, next to take care of utilities and zoning, and finally to attract the tenants needed to turn Polaris's red ink to black.

"Bob told us in 1987 it would take three years to get the interchange," says Kelley, "and he got it in three years, to the month." It wasn't easy. In the beginning the partners planned to pay for the interchange themselves, following the pioneering example of developer Pete Edwards, who built the Tuttle Crossing interchange on I-270 in order to open up commercial land in northwestern Franklin County.

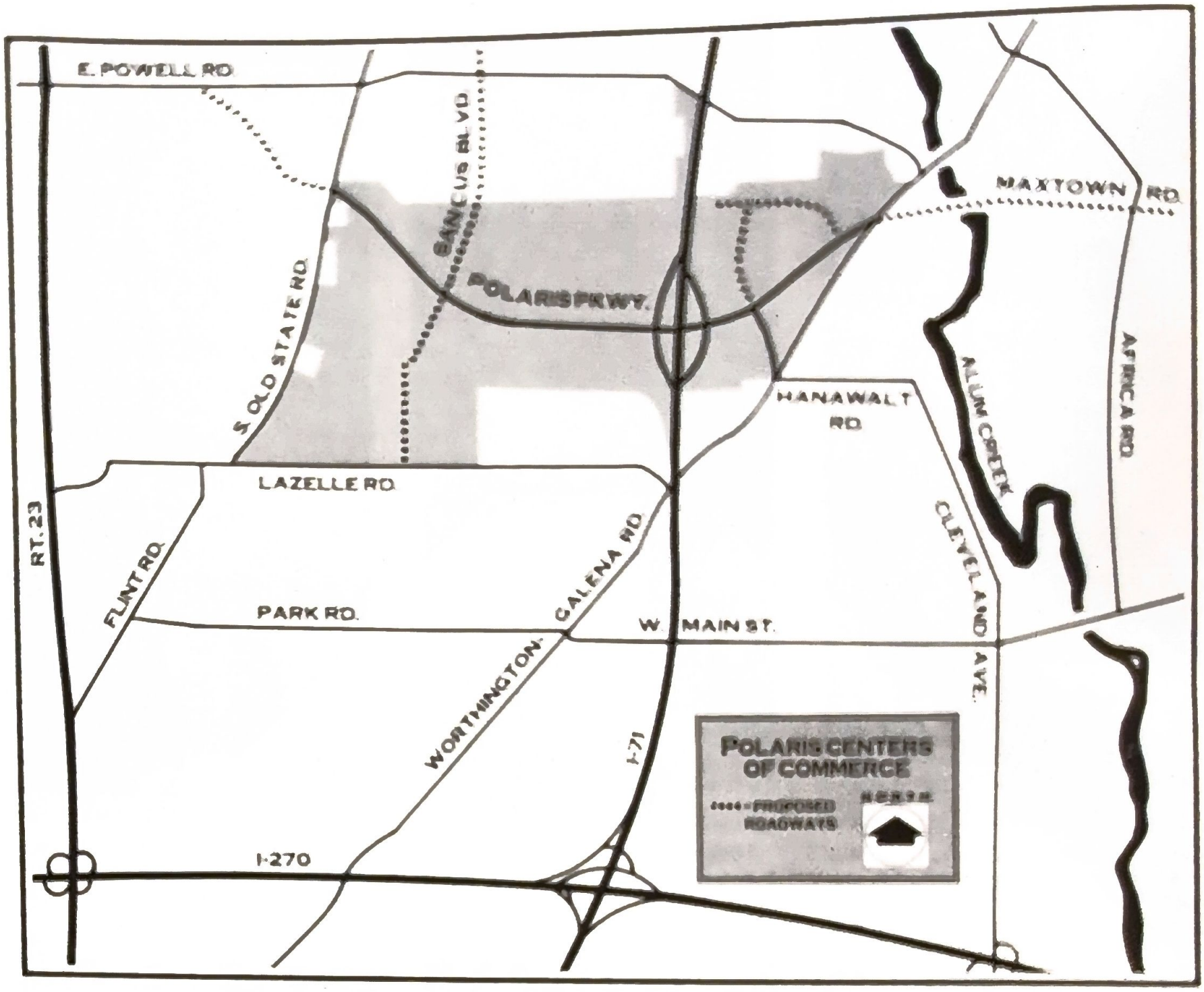
"We agreed early on that if we waited for public funding, it would be a 15- to 20-year project," says Echele. "Even with private funding it took three years, including one year to get Delaware County to agree and another year to get ODOT [Ohio Department of Transportation] approval." There'd been talk about an I-71 interchange between I-270 and Rt. 37 for years, but still the ODOT bureaucracy moved at what seemed a glacial pace. "When we first met with them," Echele says, "it was like meeting with a roll of paper towels. They absorbed a lot, but nothing came back. . . . But I've gained a lot of respect for them, even though it took a year."

By the time ODOT agreed to put the interchange where Echele wanted it—right in the middle of Polaris—the commercial real estate market had collapsed and bank lenders had slammed their vault doors shut. It was a time to be conserving cash, not throwing it around. So NP Limited began looking for creative ways to offset some or all of the $5.4 million cost of the interchange.

And suddenly, there was Columbus.

Columbus had been there for years, of course, thrusting its municipal bulk right up against the Delaware County Line along Lazelle Road. Hundreds of families in subdivisions south of Lazelle were enjoying what some consider the best combination of services in Franklin County—Columbus utilities and Worthington schools. But the land in Orange Town-

"Predictably, the Delaware County commissioners and Orange Township trustees were furious. Feeling betrayed, the commissioners were in no mood to approve NP Limited's request to annex its land to Columbus."



ship, north of Lazelle, was still mostly cornfields. And nobody—certainly not Bob Echele—planned for Columbus to break historic precedent by annexing into Delaware County.

From the beginning, Echele says, he had assumed Polaris would be developed on unincorporated Orange Township land. Delaware County already had sewer lines ready to serve the area, and the private Del-Co Water Company was eager for new customers. By staying out of a city, Echele could offer Polaris tenants lower taxes without sacrificing amenities. "The partnership intends to work closely with Orange Township and Delaware County officials," he wrote in NP Limited's very first press release in 1987. And for three years he did exactly that.

"Bob spent enormous amounts of time building relationships in Delaware County," says Weiler. "Because of that, Orange Township got 1,325 acres zoned commercial with very little opposition. Bob would invite groups of residents into the office. . . . He'll spend six hours with someone who comes into the office. He might not turn that person around, but at least he gets his respect. Bob genuinely likes people."

"The advantage to us of not annexing was taxes, plain and simple," says Echele, "plus we would have had a lot of influence in Orange Township." At first, he says, Orange Township "was very anti-growth. They had a referendum on a planned subdivision and overturned the zoning. Orange Township people like where they live and they don't really want to see it change, but they know it's going to change. We initially met with a lot of opposition in Orange Township. Ultimately we gained their support, and then we alienated them fatally by annexing."

The reason for NP Limited's abrupt reversal was cash—a $9 million pile of it pushed across the negotiating table by Columbus in 1990. Columbus Development director Jane Schoedinger first offered to pick up the $5.4 million tab for Polaris's I-71 interchange. When City Attorney Ron O'Brien decided that would be illegal because Polaris already had let an interchange construction contract, Schoedinger offered to pay the same amount for Polaris roads and utilities. If Polaris came even close to creating the 27,000 jobs and 4,500 hotel rooms the developers were projecting, city officials figured, Columbus would recoup its investment many times over through increased municipal income taxes and hotel-motel taxes. Giving NP Limited $5.4 million seemed the shrewdest investment the city could make.

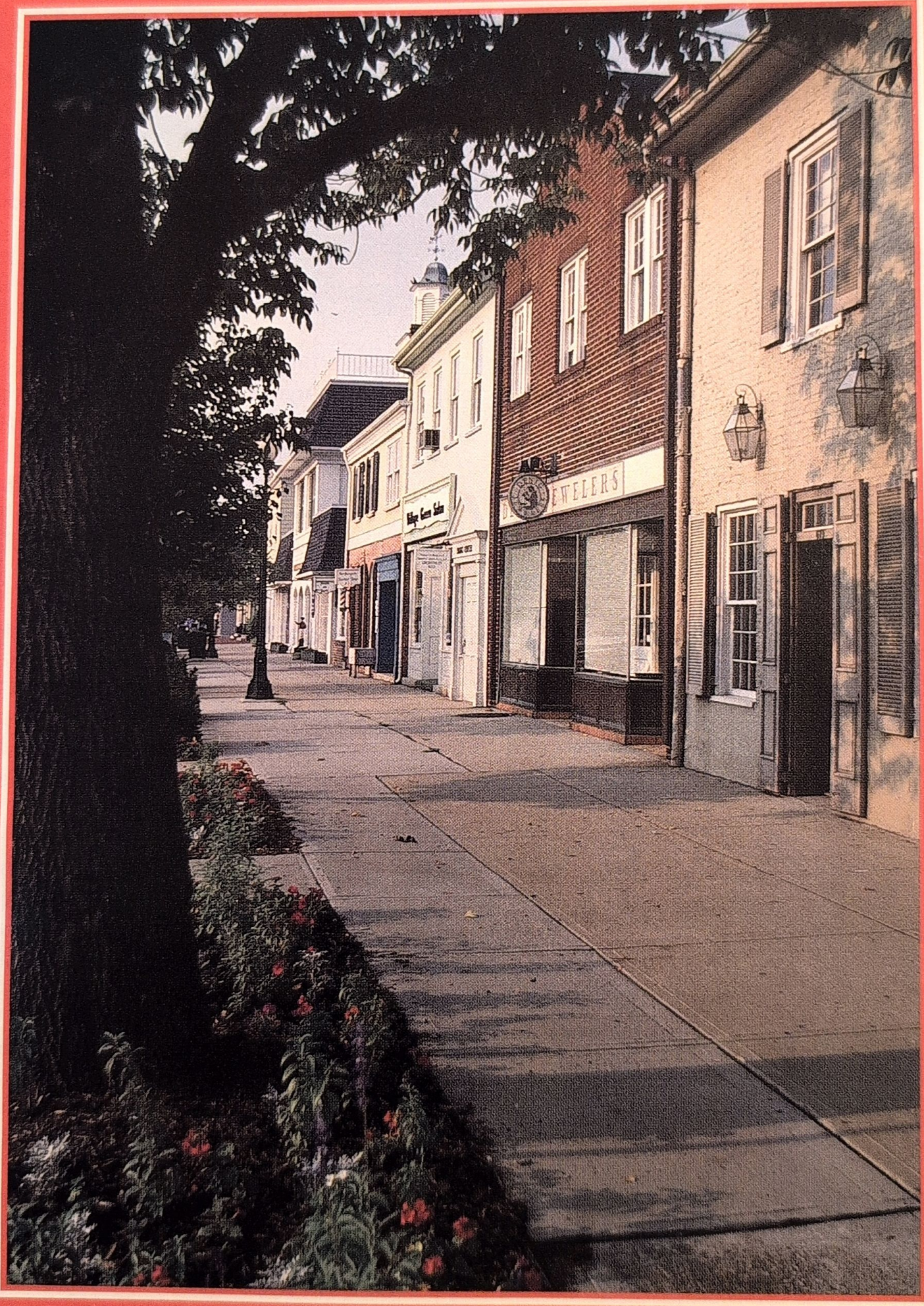
Then Delaware County, which had declared it had no money to help the developers, shocked everyone by countering with its own offer of $6.7 million. When Columbus's bid reached $9 million, though, Delaware dropped out and the annexation deal was done.

Or almost done. Predictably, the Delaware County Commissioners and Orange Township Trustees were furious. Feeling betrayed, the commissioners were in no mood to approve NP Limited's request to annex its land to Columbus. The Franklin County Commissioners, on the other hand, thought such an annexation would be just dandy. The only problem was, none of NP Limited's land was in Franklin County.

Presto! NP Limited bought a tiny piece of Franklin County land—only seven acres—in Sharon Township, just across the county line from Polaris's huge Orange Township tract. Because four people

Continued on page 57

WORTHINGTON



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Welcome to Worthington

One of the best things about living and working in Worthington is that, even as times change and the city continues to grow and develop, the fundamental spirit of a vital, caring community remains pretty much the same.

Columbus Monthly featured Worthington in a special advertising section in 1985, emphasizing the city's strong and maturing economy, as well as Worthington's award-winning schools, first-class housing opportunities and historic legacy.

All of these strengths still prevail in Worthington, and the following pages stress the amenities available in what we proudly believe is one of the finest suburban communities anywhere.

This section includes information on Worthington's extensive annual menu of cultural, recreational and civic activities (page W3); on the community's fine school system—a system made even stronger by the opening of a new high school and two new elementary schools in 1991 (page W9); on the special care with which the city preserves the distinctive architecture and design of Old Worthington (page W16); and on the wide range of housing in the city and the school district (page W17).

Additionally, you'll find a reminiscence by Dr. George Harding IV, president of Harding Hospital in Worthington and a lifelong resident of the community (page W20). And you'll find messages from some of the companies and commercial enterprises that make Worthington a great place to do business, as well as a fine place to live.

The City of Worthington and the Worthington Area Chamber of Commerce are pleased to join with the producer, *Columbus Monthly*, in bringing you this special section. We hope you'll enjoy learning more about the Worthington community. If you're not a Worthington resident, we hope you'll take the opportunity to visit us soon.

David Elder
Worthington City Manager

Jean Sickles
President, Worthington Area
Chamber of Commerce

WORTHINGTON
Arts, sports and more!

BY
ERIK BATTENBERG

With strong arts and recreation programs and lots of shopping, there's always plenty to do in Worthington.

Top-notch arts programs, four-star dining, extensive recreation options, shopping choices that cover almost every base, and numerous annual activities and celebrations are some of the reasons life is good in Worthington. While people who live in most Central Ohio suburbs have to go elsewhere for diversions, Worthington residents can be amused, entertained and enlightened without crossing the city limits.

Arts programs in Worthington are perhaps the best any area suburb has to offer. The Worthington Arts Council, funded by the city and the Ohio Arts Council, offers several arts series each year, with special events sprinkled in for added variety. The council's programs aren't just thrown together with whatever art or artists it can find; they try to address cultural desires in the community, says Susann Möller, executive director of the council.

The council sponsors a four-event performance series each year, Möller says, which highlights many different genres, from classical performances to musicals to acoustic folk music. "The programs change depending on where the interests lie," Möller says. Past performers in the series include the Kingston Trio and Judy Collins. Scheduled for 1992 are Windham Hill artist Night Noise, featuring Phillip Aaberg, and pianist Roger Williams.

One of the more controversial parts of the council's visual arts series has

Courtesy Worthington Area Chamber of Commerce

Antrim Park offers both active and passive recreation.

been the Sculpture on the Green program, which offers two exhibits each year on the Village Green at the intersection of Rt. 161 and High Street in Old Worthington. Möller says the New England architecture around the green makes the perfect backdrop for modern sculpture. Not everyone agrees.

When seven-foot metal flamingos were placed on the green last May, it created quite a stir among residents who thought the big birds were an eyesore. But Möller doesn't mind if not everyone is pleased by an exhibit. "Controversy is something really creative," she says. "It moves you forward, not backward."

Another series at City Hall offers exhibitions featuring work by Central Ohio artists each month, says Bob LeBoeuf, assistant to the director of the council. The council also holds four shows a year at the Worthington Public Library, and a spring and fall show at Integrity Life, an office building on Wilson Bridge Road. The council's biggest show, LeBoeuf says, is held at the Pontifical College Josephinum, usually in the spring, and has featured works by such notables as Han Xin and Scot Gussen.

Other programs the council offers include Art Moves, which gives private corporations an opportunity to house rotating exhibits of work by area artists, and the Folk Life Festival, which Möller calls "an inspiration for all the arts councils in the state." The festival, held the first Saturday in August, features juried cross-cultural works, children's activities, live demonstrations, music and ethnic foods.

Other area arts organizations include the Worthington Art League, Worthington area visual artists who hold two shows each year, according to president Rebecca Kovach.

Old Worthington Market Day, held in September each year, is "a complete street-wide festival," says Jean Sickles, president of the Worthington Area Chamber of Commerce. "It has just about anything and everything you could imagine in a street festival, except rides." Street performers, dunking booths, entertainment and plenty of food highlight the festival.

Other big annual events include the Fourth of July celebration and the Memorial Day parade. The Fourth of July celebration is sponsored by the Colonial Hills Civic Association and is "the epitome of a small-town celebration," says Sherman Moyer, president of the association. Held in the southeast section of town, the two-day celebration features events ranging from pony rides and kiddie rides to volleyball grudge matches between the city's police and Sharon Township fire personnel. The Worthington Hills Civic Organization also sponsors Fourth of July activities, including a parade, the 5-kilometer Firecracker Trot, a softball game and fireworks.

The Memorial Day parade, a Worthington tradition for more than 50 years, is sponsored by the Leasure Blackston Post 239, American Legion, says Rich Richardson, post trustee. The parade route begins on Rt. 161 at Morning Street, travels west to High Street, and south on High Street to Walnut Grove Cemetery, where a memorial service is held.

The Worthington Parks and Recreation Department offers perhaps the most extensive agenda of any suburban department in Central Ohio, with more than 600 programs and more than 14,000 participants in 1990. Additionally, more than 130,000 people use parks and recreation facilities in the city by permit. "There's usually a park within a half mile or less at just about anywhere in the city," says Bill Poling, director of parks and recreation.

Unique among Worthington's parks is Olentangy Parklands, which offers almost 100 acres of recreation space, about 40 percent of which is still forested. Olentangy Parklands features a bike trail that connects with Columbus's bike trail along the Olentangy River, Poling says. Other park facilities include the 25-acre McCord Park and the 22-acre Perry Park, both of which have ball fields to accommodate the department's sports leagues.

A major advantage the Worthington recreation department has over other suburban departments is owning its own community center on Highland Avenue. "Without a center, it's difficult to have a full range of programs," Poling

TRAINING TOMORROW'S COMMUNITY LEADERS

In 1991 a project that explored the history of the Underground Railroad led Worthington school officials to expand their African-American studies curriculum. In 1992 a project entitled International Worthington is attempting to increase awareness of the community's cultural and ethnic diversity.

Both projects are products of Leadership Worthington, a program launched in 1990 as a cooperative venture of the Worthington Schools/Business/Community Partnership Council and the Worthington Area Chamber of Commerce.

Patterned after a program started in Atlanta and later adopted by dozens of other communities, Leadership Worthington strives to identify existing and emerging leaders and develop their potential for civic responsibility, increase understanding of community issues and motivate class members to resolve issues for the betterment of Worthington.

Leadership Worthington's first class of 25 graduated in June, 1991. The 1992 class of 21 has undertaken a year-long schedule of issue-oriented sessions, in-depth community tours and leadership development retreats. The program's slogan is: People make the difference.

Each Leadership Worthington class leaves the community a legacy of completed projects. Members divide into groups according to interest and present their projects to the full class each spring. Civic leaders are invited to review the "crop" of emerging leaders and their work.

Leadership Worthington "brings a very active, positive volunteer force to the community," says program coordinator Janey Davies. "It also shows the people involved in the class that there are many opportunities for them to play a role in enhancing the life of their community."

Anyone living or working in the Worthington School District may apply for Leadership Worthington class membership by calling Davies at 431-6500.

—James A. Toms

Courtesy Worthington Area Chamber of Commerce

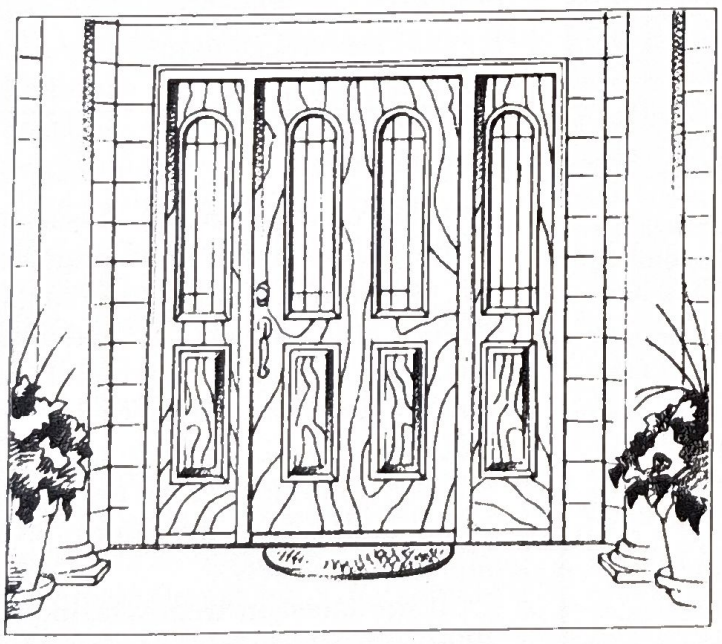
Summer farmers' markets draw shoppers to Old Worthington.

ing says. The only other Central Ohio suburb with its own center, Poling says, is Hilliard.

One of the more popular programs the department offers is family nights, held at the center every Friday evening in spring, winter and fall. The program is free to families, Poling says, and offers parents and children a variety of games and activities. "It's been real popular," Poling says. "We'll have 300 people of all ages come out. It's designed to get families participating in events together." The department also entertains Worthington residents by offering free outdoor family concerts on Sunday evenings in the summer on the Village Green.

The department is now designing a new senior center just north of the Village Green on High Street. "Hopefully we can get started in construction [this] summer," Poling says. "We'd like the building to be ready in March of 1993 or before." Parks and recreation staffers aren't the only ones looking forward to the opening of the new senior center. The arts council will be housed there and given exhibition space, LeBoeuf says, and, "We're really excited about it."

Make A Grand Entrance.



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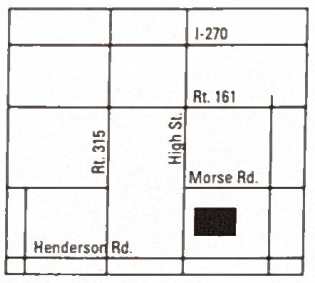

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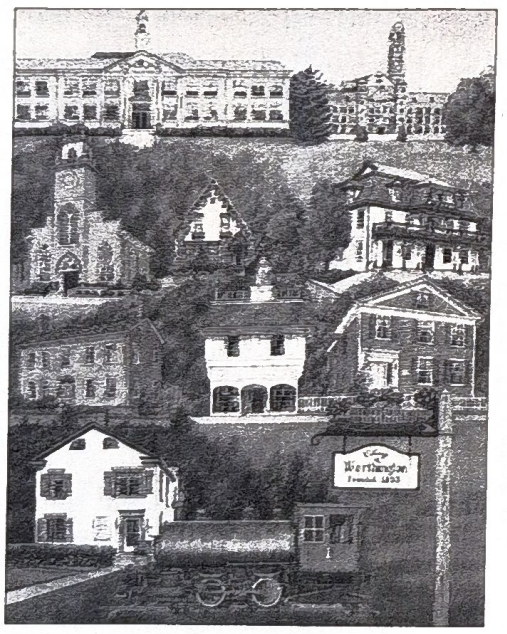
THE WORTHINGTON
PRINT AND POSTER



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Unlike many suburban communities which offer only limited commercial facilities, families in Worthington can buy just about anything at two excellent shopping areas. Worthington Square Mall, which opened in 1985, features dozens of stores ranging from large grocery and drug stores to small specialty shops. Located on Wilson Bridge Road just west of High Street and south of I-270, the mall houses fine clothing stores, an expansive book store, a couple of hair salons and jewelry, record, chocolate, sports clothes and antique stores. Two restaurants cater to shoppers.

Worthington's historic downtown district, located on High Street between Rt. 161 and South Street, features mostly specialty stores, says Jean Beckett, former president of the Downtown Merchants Business Association. A dress shop, a doll store, craft stores, gift stores and a store specializing in cartoon stills are among the downtown offerings. During the summer the association sponsors a farmer's market on Saturdays from 8:30 am to noon, Beckett says. Farmers from around Ohio come and sell home-grown produce along High Street.

If the latest in trendy fashions and high-tech electronics dominate Worthington Square, Old Worthington's commercial strip is a bit more laid-back and traditional. At least one merchant still operates on a barter system with regular customers, and many take pride in knowing their regulars.

Restaurant options in Worthington emphasize fine dining rather than fast food. The Worthington Inn, which of-

> ***"Unlike many suburban communities that offer only limited commercial facilities, families in Worthington can buy just about anything at two excellent shopping areas."***

fers 26 overnight rooms as well as the community's best-known restaurant, received a four-star rating in 1991 from the prestigious *Mobil Travel Guide*—one of only three restaurants in Ohio to earn four stars. Other popular Worthington eateries include the James Tavern, the Rusty Pelican, Umberto's and Dalts.

"There's a real diversity of leisure time opportunities in Worthington," says Worthington City Manager Dave Elder. "Community events are well-attended and people like them. There are a whole lot of opportunities for people to get together."

In addition to having fun, Elder says, Worthington residents take an interest in their neighborhoods and in the community. A citywide curbside recycling program, started in the spring of 1991, soon had 80 percent participation among eligible residents, says Lori Trego, administrative assistant for the city's service department and coordinator of the recycling program. The voluntary program recycles aluminum and bi-metal beverage cans, plastic, newspaper and glass. Residents also look out for each other through the police department's block watch program. "We've had some good results of people helping us apprehend criminals," says police chief Paul Abbott.

Citizens also are active in more than three dozen Worthington-area groups and civic associations. There's even one group, Leadership Worthington, whose purpose is to train *new* civic leaders and volunteers. (See "Training tomorrow's community leaders.")

Worthington offers numerous specialty clubs for women, men, seniors, singles, volunteers and even historians. One such club is the Worthington Writers Group, which has been together for 15 years, says president Clint Friedley. Composed mostly of freelance writers, the club meets once a month to read and critique members' work.

Though Worthington is very much a part of metropolitan Columbus and offers residents a range of services as broad as many larger cities, city leaders work hard to preserve a small-town atmosphere. "There are lots of partnerships and liaisons," Möller says. "The sense of 'Together we're strong' really exists." ■

Erik Battenberg is a staff writer for Suburban News Publications and music critic for The Other Paper.

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WORTHINGTON SCHOOLS
Preparing for the 21st century

BY
JOHN BUTTERFIELD

Worthington has a new high school, new administrative leaders and new ways of planning for the next generation.

While the Worthington schools have earned a reputation throughout Ohio for their tradition of excellence, the school system is embarking on approaches to prepare students for the future that are far from traditional.

Teachers, administrators and staff are forging partnerships with community members, businesses and area universities to seek new, more effective ways to help children develop their potential. And with new leadership in place, the district seems headed in the right direction.

In March, 1991, the Worthington Board of Education hired Damon Asbury, a former associate and interim superintendent of the Columbus Public Schools, as superintendent. Asbury began work in June, 1991, joining another new administrator, district treasurer Stan Bahorek, who had been hired a few months earlier.

Asbury and Bahorek have gone a

Worthington Kilbourne High School opened in 1991.

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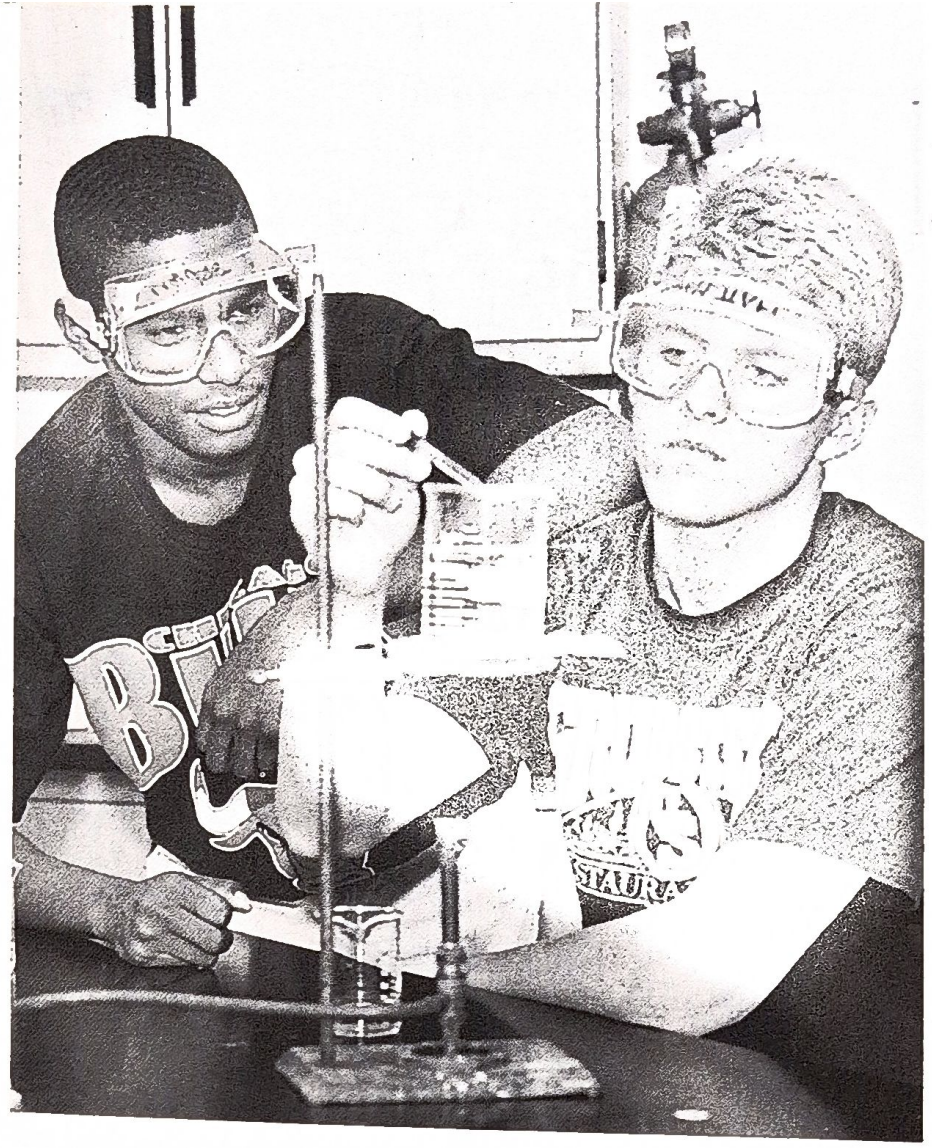

Courtesy Worthington Schools

Seniors G.W. Wilson, left, and Matt Minister in a science lab.

long way in building the credibility of the top two management positions in the district. Asbury, with 22 years of experience in school administration, has a low-key style and a refreshing sense of humor. "If you can't laugh at yourself once in a while, then you've been in the business too long," he says. "Education is a very emotional business and being defensive about things doesn't help. I try to put myself in the other person's position, be a good listener and then look for solutions to problems."

The school board hired Bahorek to provide strong fiscal leadership for the district. A former treasurer of the South-Western City Schools, Bahorek holds a master's degree in business administration from Ohio State University and spent several years in the investment banking industry.

Asbury is impressed by the strategic direction the board has set and the planning that had taken place even before his appointment. Originally developed by a 30-member team of residents and school personnel, Worthington's "Plan for the Future" sets forth the district's mission statement, beliefs and the strategies that will help concentrate the district's resources toward achieving its prime objectives.

Many people feel the district has already taken a major step in becoming more responsive to the individual student as a result of the plan. The development of 10 learner outcomes last year by a group of community members and staff, known as the Strategy for Success Team, made a significant shift in perspective from program development to human development—helping students live more effective and productive lives.

"What makes this approach innovative is that the skills, knowledge and attitudes that students need to possess have been grouped around 10 themes of an effective person rather than subject areas," says Frank McKim, a parent and a business consultant who volunteered to serve on the committee because of his concern about the declining interest in science.

Now the district will focus on helping students improve their self-images, become more responsible, learn to make good decisions, communicate effectively and understand and respect other cultures. In addition, the Strategy for Success Team wants Worthington graduates to be knowledge explorers, lifelong learners, responsible citizens, practitioners of good health and wise resource users.

The learner outcomes are purposely broad statements in the expectation that future generations can apply their own interpretations without having to modify them for at least 100 years. To help students apply the outcomes in

their own lives, they are also written from the perspective of a young person.

"With this approach the teacher accepts the accountability for teaching while the student takes the responsibility for learning," says Arnie Skidmore, assistant superintendent for instruction. "We hope our students will use the learner outcomes as a personal affirmation of the control they have over their own education."

The learner outcomes were highlighted in John Naisbitt's *Trend Letter*, a biweekly newsletter published by the internationally known futurist and author of *Megatrends*. Since the article was published, the district has received calls from people all over the country who want more information.

"We're making the country think about outcome-based education," says Dennis Benson, a community member and research consultant who served on the committee. "We've come up with something other districts want to get their hands on."

Another major change is occurring at the school level. School Improvement Teams composed of community members, parents, staff, and in some cases, students are being formed to determine the direction of individual schools within the overall framework established by the school board and the Plan for the Future.

Three schools—Colonial Hills Elementary School, McCord Middle School and Worthington Kilbourne High School—have completed the training phase of the implementation process. Teams from six other schools will complete training before the start of the 1992-'93 school year.

Carol Price, principal at Colonial Hills, is a strong advocate of the new approach, which could involve as many as 50 people working on school goals that relate directly to the needs of families and students. "The process recognizes that not only school people, but parents and others have good ideas about what can happen in school," Price says. "We're building ownership in children's education that comes from being involved."

"The community people often start out a bit nervous because they don't think they know a lot about education," Price says. "Once we start talking about educational issues, gain some skills and build trust, the group members realize people have an equal voice and each person's ideas are important."

Asbury agrees: "Most people these

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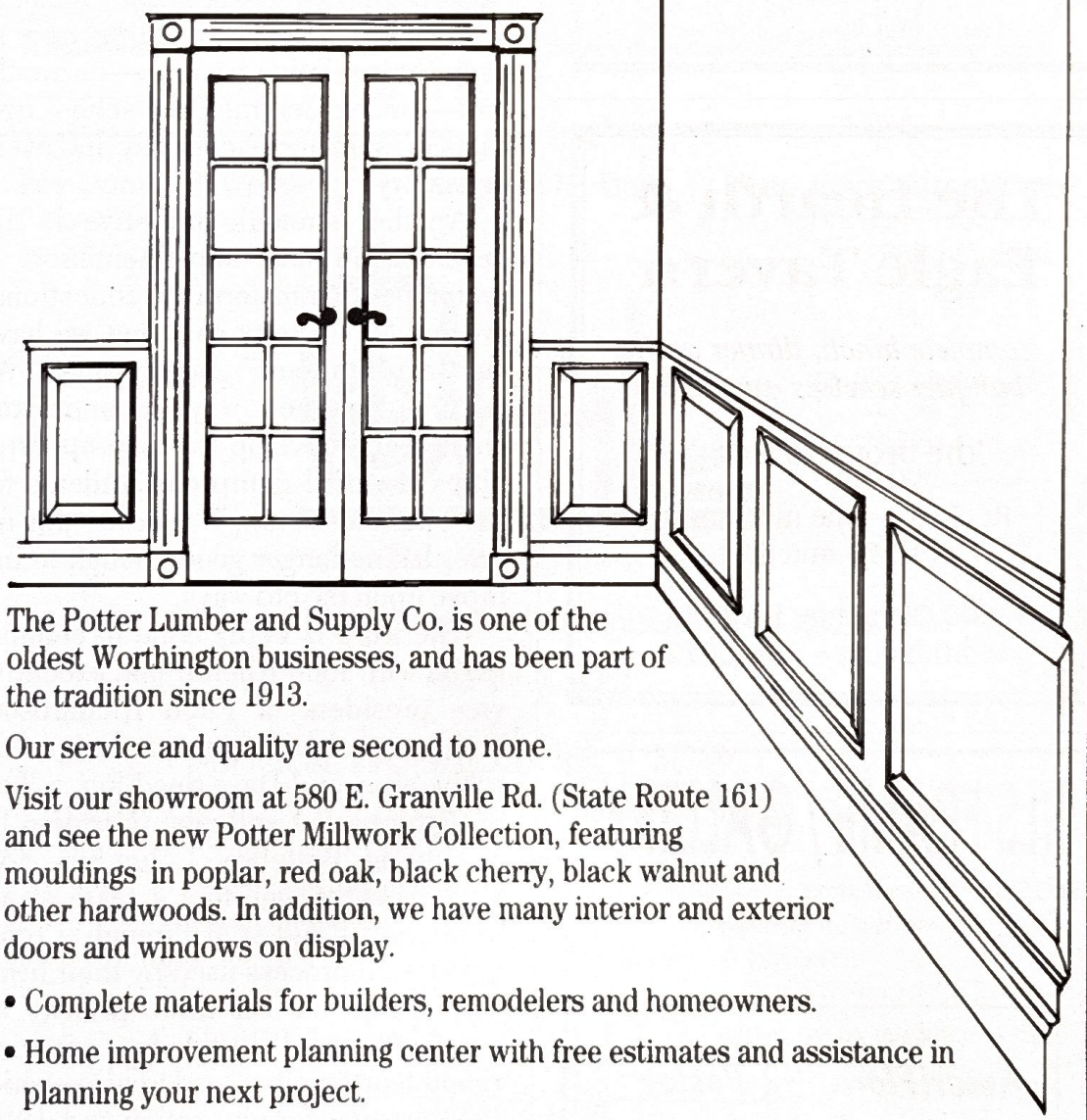

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days are concerned about education, and they want to do what they can to help. We just need to invite them in," he says. "We can't move schools forward without the help of many people."

While this improvement plan is new, the philosophy behind it, shared-decision making, is not new to the district. Worthington was one of the first school systems in Ohio to abandon conventional, confrontational labor negotiations for a shared-solutions process that emphasizes problem solving.

"It's less costly, less time-consuming and sets the stage for mutual resolution of problems," says Gerald Prince, assistant superintendent for human resources. "We took a process used by some of the best-managed companies in the country and applied it to our situation. It works."

Recently the school board and the teachers' union reached a three-year agreement using the process. The increases to the salary schedule are the lowest raises in the last 10 years and below settlements for 1992 reached so far by other central Ohio.

On the other hand, the new salary package allows certified staff to maintain their economic standing and to keep their relative position—currently fifth—among Central Ohio school districts for starting teacher pay and average salary.

Another strategic initiative is the development and implementation of prototypes to transform the educational system. "It's a lofty goal, but we have high expectations," Asbury says. "We need to find new ways to anticipate change and develop learning opportunities that will equip our students for the challenges they'll face in the future. It's no longer good enough to improve upon the old ways."

The work is being done in collaboration with John Rheinfrank, executive vice president of Fitch Richardson-Smith, a nationally known design firm in the area, and Dave Snediker, a Worthington parent and vice president for quality at Battelle's Columbus division. They are guiding a team of administrators and staff through a product-design process used by their firms. The group has set three priority areas—integrated knowledge, organizational learning and leadership—which hold promise for innovation and development.

Another collaborative effort currently in planning involves the school district, the Worthington Educational Foundation and a nationally known

Superintendent Damon Asbury

training, development and publications firm, Creative Learning Consultants. The result will be a national conference to be held in the district in June showcasing innovative ways to reshape education.

The first-time event, entitled "Discovering the 21st Century: The Bridge to the Future," is the brainchild of Kathy Meyer, the district's Extended Education coordinator. A number of businesses, including Honda, Xerox and Columbia Gas, will present successful business practices that have implications for educational change.

Meyer thinks the conference can serve as a model for improving education by the collaboration among school, business and community. It will raise money for the foundation to support local programs and provide a significant staff development opportunity for the district's employees. "We will be generating revenue rather than spending local tax dollars," Meyer says. "This is our first step in becoming educational entrepreneurs."

Collaboration to improve education is also occurring between the district and university personnel. Worthington has been selected for three of eight professional development sites established by Ohio State University to improve the education of prospective and practicing teachers and strengthen the profession of education.

Worthington schools also are experiencing significant curriculum changes. The high school science curriculum, for example, has undergone a major restructuring to increase student interest and understanding of science and technology.

Biology and earth science have been integrated in a new two-year sequence of courses called Biological

Earth Systems (BES) I and II. Although the sequence still provides students with a solid foundation in both earth science and biology, the content is organized and taught in a different way.

"Students are seeing the planet as a whole rather than just a collection of parts," says Frauke Palmer, science chairperson at Thomas Worthington High School. "They are learning how they impact their environment and how to take responsibility as citizens for the earth and its future."

The method for teaching science has also been changed. Students sit through fewer lectures and memorize fewer details. Instead, they work cooperatively in groups or as individuals in open-ended labs. There are many opportunities for higher-level thinking and creative problem solving.

Technology is also being used to a greater degree. Students access data bases, develop reports using laser video discs and design computer models. Activities are designed to give students opportunities to take charge of their own learning and become more competent in the use of technology.

The new course sequence is being monitored not only by teachers, but by two advisory committees composed of university professors, educators from other area districts and residents who work in science fields. The science restructuring was made possible through more than $300,000 in grants from the Fund for the Improvement and Reform of Schools.

"These changes are consistent with the national education goal to make American students the first in the world in science and math," said Pat Barron, a teacher leader who coordinates science instruction.

Changes have also been made in the middle school and high school math programs. "When we decided our program wasn't adequately preparing students for the 21st century, we took action," says Jacquelyn Sonedecker, director of secondary education. "Now we're aligned with national standards for mathematics."

The revised curriculum places increased attention on patterns and relationships, estimation, mental arithmetic and analyzing data; less attention is placed on computation out of context.

Similar emphasis is occurring in the elementary schools. "While the basics are still important to us, some of the approaches we're using to teach them have changed," says Bruce Emery, ex-

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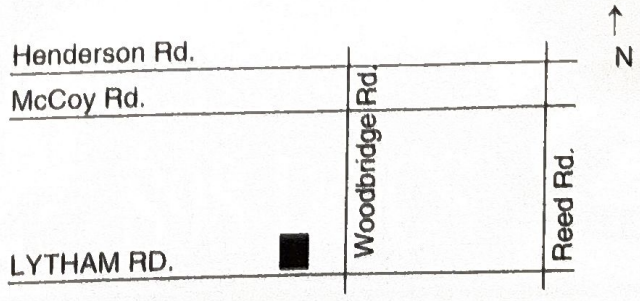

ecutive director of elementary education. "We still stress reading, writing and mathematics, but we want children to get beyond memorization and to apply their skills in more realistic situations."

The middle and high school social studies curriculum has also undergone revision to reflect the findings of recent national studies. History, geography and citizenship provide the framework for the program.

Worthington school enrollment passed 10,000 in 1991, making Worthington the 17th largest of 613 public school districts in Ohio. Since 1983, the system has grown by more than 3,000 students with an average increase of nearly 400 students a year. With residential development nearing saturation, school officials anticipate more moderate growth in the future.

While enrollment increases have occurred at all school levels, most of the growth has occurred in the elementary schools. In 1983 there were seven elementary schools; today there are 12. Five years ago there were two middle schools; now, three. The district opened its second high school in 1991.

With growth has come a more diversified student population. The percentage of minority students has increased by 55 percent since 1983 to nearly 10 percent of the entire student enrollment. The number of single-parent families also has increased.

> *"Students sit through fewer lectures and memorize fewer details. Instead, they work cooperatively in groups or as individuals in open-ended labs."*

"The Worthington district is a much more diverse community than most people realize," Asbury points out. "Increased diversity should be viewed as a strength because students who learn in a multicultural setting will be better prepared to function in the real world."

The change to two high schools was a major decision for school officials and required years of research and involvement by staff, students and community members. Initial planning didn't focus on the building, but started with a comprehensive study of the program that high school students would need to prepare themselves for the 21st century.

"From the beginning, we knew it was important that both schools, the new one and our existing high school, have comparable facilities to implement the program we all agreed was necessary," says Thomas Worthington High School principal Bill Northrup. "We took great care in making sure similar programs could be offered at each school."

In November, 1988, voters approved a bond issue, part of which funded the construction of Worthington Kilbourne High School and major renovations to Thomas Worthington. The new school, located on a 55-acre site with a wooded ravine off Hard Road, opened this fall with 1,100 students. It will eventually house 1,500 students, about 100 fewer than Thomas Wor-

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thington, where remodeling will be substantially completed by the start of the 1992-'93 school year.

While construction was taking place, committees of parents, staff and students worked together to ensure a smooth transition to two high schools. They addressed such issues as community unity, school identity, staffing, attendance areas and academic and extracurricular programs.

Northrup and his counterpart at Worthington Kilbourne, Ron Porta, view the transition to two schools as a way to provide more opportunities for students and staff and to build a more intimate and supportive structure. "Our goal is to have high schools where students will receive an excellent education, where they will be proud of their school and where they can know their teachers as human beings," Porta says.

Opening the new high school plus two elementary schools was made possible by the passage of an operating levy in February, 1991. While Worthington's financial picture was uncertain a year ago, today's outlook is better, and the district has a three-year budget plan in place. "This stability gives us an opportunity to do what we do best—educate and improve our services to children and the community," Asbury says.

One dark cloud on the horizon for Worthington, as well as many other suburban school districts, involves possible court rulings or legislative decisions that could mean the loss of millions of dollars in state revenue for the district. One proposal the General Assembly is considering is to take money from systems like Worthington and redistribute it to underfunded school districts in the state.

"Our objective is to improve funding adequacy for all districts," explains board member Sue McNaghten. "It doesn't make any sense to legislate remedies that have a 'leveling down' effect on the quality of education. The result will be chaotic."

McNaghten, along with fellow board member Laura Kohler, played a leadership role in organizing school districts that would be adversely affected by the state's plan. "It's a tradition for Worthington to be out front, but in this case, we wish it wasn't necessary," she says. ■

John Butterfield is assistant to the superintendent of the Worthington

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Preserving Worthington's colonial heritage

Passing muster with the Architectural Review Board can be tough, but Old Worthington residents wouldn't have it any other way.

The Worthington Inn, a High Street landmark.

Tonight will be a long one, David Foust says, preparing to chair another meeting of the Worthington Municipal Development Commission.

A dozen items crowd the agenda, including 10 up for architectural review because they concern properties on High Street, on Dublin-Granville Road or in Old Worthington. Homes and businesses located in these areas must comply with strict aesthetic guidelines designed to enhance and perpetuate the city's colonial-federalist ambiance.

Though the protected area is small compared to the size of the city, around 100 items per year come before Worthington's seven-member Architectural Review Board—the five Municipal Development Commission members, plus two other residents. When commissioners don their review board hats, they pull out the microscopes, too. No aspect of a development proposal is too minute to examine.

Assistant City Manager Paul Feldman, doubling as commission clerk, fires up the slide projector. The first proposal is a rather extensive addition to a home on Hartford Street. Feldman provides detailed narration as slides of blueprints and various perspectives of the house as it looks now fill the screen.

Will all the windows be double-hung? The board wants that stipulated, and the owners readily agree. The proposal passes as amended.

A new residence planned for Bellbrook Place gets more of the third degree. The contractor is quizzed about a curious positioning of two second-story windows. Slides of a similar, colonially flavored home in Westerville are shown.

And so it goes through the night. Handsome brass signage on High Street is approved. Other items are dissected and ultimately pass with amendments. Four more are tabled. At 1:20 am, the meeting adjourns.

Preserving history is a time-consuming task but it's well worth it, officials believe. "The architecture has proved timeless," says Worthington City Manager David Elder. "People just like the style."

"The review board promotes continuity in landscaping, signage and buildings," Foust says. "It fosters an identity people can feel. People like something stable, reliable, something that feels like coming home." Each year the Old Worthington Association presents certificates of achievement to the owners of residential and commercial buildings that do a particularly good job of maintaining the colonial atmosphere.

The city has been willing to invest in its own identity. During 1990 the Worthington Parks and Recreation Department completed extensive improvements to the Village Green in Old Worthington. Municipal facilities carefully adhere to the Architectural Review Board's guidelines.

Architectural review is a byproduct of Worthington's original comprehensive plan, completed in 1966. In the quarter-century that has followed, city and civic leaders have pursued the plan's preservationist goals with a zeal that's noted throughout Central Ohio.

But has the strict policy perhaps also hampered development in Worthington? "No, it's proved to be an advantage," Foust contends. "The policy allows anyone who comes into town to invest to know what the future holds. No one is going to construct a two-story office building on North High Street today and see a 25-story high-rise go up next door in a few years." Or another two-story building in a radically different architectural style. Or even a neon sign, which would be strictly *verboten*.

"The architectural review board has been very important," agrees Leslie Zollinger Gerrity, president of the Greater Worthington Area Real Estate Association. "It's why Old Worthington is one of the most charming downtowns of any suburb in the Columbus area."

—Christopher Bifani

WORTHINGTON HOMES
From starters to estates

BY
CHRISTOPHER BIFANI

Whether it's an $80,000 colonial rehab, a $150,000 ranch or a $700,000 mansion, you can find what you want in Worthington.

You still can get your money's worth in Worthington. And home buyers who select Worthington when settling in the Columbus area get the best of both worlds—city convenience and small-town charm.

That's the consensus of area real estate professionals who say the city's combination of solid community, quality schools and prime location offers real value at all market levels.

"It's a good, steady market," says Leslie Zollinger Gerrity, president of the Greater Worthington Area Real Estate Association. The "Area" in the professional group's moniker refers to the Worthington City School District, which also encompasses Columbus land to the west and northwest of Worthington proper.

"There's usually a good inventory of housing available in both newer and older homes," says JoAnn Curry, an agent with Red Carpet Myers Real Estate. She says homes in the Columbus-Worthington City Schools area are mostly newer properties while homes in the city proper run the gamut from small colonials and Cape Cods to luxurious estates.

Though the high median income of residents and the city's history lend an

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ate of settlement in Worthington, the variety of housing stock presents a number of entry level or near-entry level purchase opportunities.

In the Colonial Hills section, just south of the Old Worthington district, prices for more modest homes begin in the $80,000 range, Gerrity says. Outside the city, in the Columbus-Worthington Schools area, "You can still find three bedrooms, a great room, and maybe a nice deck on a cul-de-sac in a newer neighborhood for anywhere from the low to high 80s."

Paul Bean, branch manager of Worthington's HER Realtors office, says the typical listing in Colonial Hills runs a bit higher—around $100,000 to $130,000—but is still accessible to many first-time buyers. "The housing is about 30 years old but it's very salable," Bean says. Elsewhere around the city, however, homes are larger and more likely to run from $250,000 to $500,000.

In December, 1991, according to Multiple Listing Service statistics, 113 single-family homes priced less than $120,000 were for sale in the Worthington area. The average list price was just less than $100,000. Thirty-eight more homes in the less-than-$120,000 category were under contract, averaging about $95,000.

Late in 1991 there were 187 more-than-$120,000 listings in Worthington and Columbus-Worthington Schools at an average asking price of $224,687. The priciest home on the market was stickered at $850,000.

During 1991 Realtors moved an average of 50 MLS properties per month in greater Worthington from a constant pool of more than 200 listings. Gerrity notes that while the MLS figures represent a majority of late 1991 Worthington sales activity, additional homes were likely sold privately by owners or through brokers working outside MLS.

The recession has slowed higher-priced home sales throughout Central Ohio, and the costlier subdivisions in the Worthington area are no exception, says Jeanne Bodlander, an agent with Re/Max North in Worthington. In the higher price ranges, Bodlander says, "It's tough and tense. You can list at market value and not have it move because of the economy. If it doesn't move you have to reduce."

Still, Realtors believe the upscale market in Worthington has some built-in advantages. These may not prevent a recession-driven slowdown, but they can cushion against a complete stall.

One advantage is variety. Homes inspired by Frank Lloyd Wright dominate the Bush Creek subdivisions, offering an eclectic architectural alternative to buyers who aren't interested in the colonial and Tudor styles that predominate in other Worthington developments. More traditional homes fill the plats at Meadow Estates and the village of Riverglen, which is bordered by the Olentangy River on the west and by Worthington on the other three sides.

Developments outside Worthington city limits but served by Worthington Schools, such as the Woods at Josephinum, Olentangy Highlands and Worthington Hills, offer large homes in the $200,000-and-up price range. Overall, it's an affluent realty pool that spans a century of architecture.

Perhaps Worthington's best insulation against an upscale market stall is its built-in housing ladder. Buyers enter at the lower price rungs in Old Worthington or subdivisions like Worthingview and Worthington Highlands, then fall in love with the community. When it's time to trade up, there are ample choices without leaving the city or school district.

Realtors note most of the activity is in resale as Worthington proper is more than 95 percent built out, and the Worthington Schools area outside the city limits is filling up fast.

"A lot of out-of-towners buy here," Bodlander says, noting that the equity the newcomers bring with them from other, more costly markets goes a long way in Worthington.

"It's a high demand area," Bean says. "I'd rather be here selling real estate than in another part of town where real estate sits and sits and sits."

Gerrity, though, sounds notes of

caution both for those who expect too much and for those who think they'll find a house for too little. "It's a mistake to come in and price your house to try and make a killing," Gerrity says. And while there are some "bargains" to be found, she adds, more owners are waiting out the economic downturn rather than unloading below market just to rush a sale.

The consensus seems to be that Worthington area home values should keep going up, up, up—but not away. Look for steady if not spectacular annual gains of 3 to 5 percent, Gerrity says, even in bad years. In good years, annual gains of 8 percent are more likely.

This kind of appreciation should continue to spill across city boundaries and cover the entire Worthington City School District, as long as the system's boundaries remain intact. "A few years ago," says Curry, "if you lived in Columbus but had children in the Worthington or Dublin school system you would have been pretty nervous about whether these systems would be taken over by Columbus. People aren't so worried about that now." Worthington and Columbus schools both subscribe to a "win-win" agreement that keeps district boundaries intact as long as certain conditions are met.

In addition to its highly rated schools, Worthington offers home buyers convenient location, good transportation and a host of amenities. "It's a real good location. There's good access to Route 315 and the interstate system," Curry notes. Commuters to downtown Columbus may still have to fight rush hour traffic, but for not as many miles as suburbanites living in communities beyond the outerbelt (I-270).

> *"The consensus seems to be that Worthington area home values should keep going up, up, up—but not away."*

As development has marched north around and past Worthington, the city's location has improved. Only a generation ago, Worthington was perceived as the northernmost edge of metropolitan development. Today, Columbus surrounds the city.

Much of Worthington's stature as a prime location stems from its proximity to shopping, dining, nightlife and services. Within Worthington, the 50-store Worthington Square Shopping Center provides an in-town shopping experience just south of I-270.

"When I first came here," says Bean, who has mined the Worthington market for 16 years, "there were one or two places you could have lunch. Now there are restaurants all over the place."

It's not common these days to find the peace and quiet of a tree-lined residential street just a couple of minutes by car from a bustling commercial center. But that uncommon mix of quality housing opportunities and superior amenities seems to be a primary reason homes in Worthington continue to be in demand, even as other areas struggle to maintain their popularity. ■

Christopher Bifani is a reporter for Suburban News Publications.

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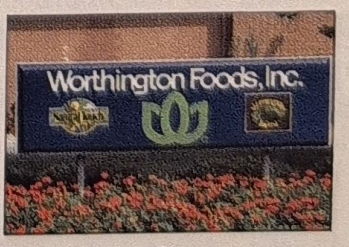

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Worthington: Home for a lifetime Or, Why I've never gotten very far

BY GEORGE HARDING IV, M.D.

Ron Rovtar/courtesy Harding Hospital

Dr. George Harding IV

Worthington is a community with a reputation for good things: its schools, its churches, its city services, its history, its neighborhoods and its diverse citizens. It is also my home town. I have had the good fortune to live and work in Worthington all my life. In fact, I still live just one block from where I was born. I used to boast about this a bit, until one of my patients commented, 'It doesn't seem to me that you've gotten very far in life.' "

I do feel fortunate to be able to go into a shop in Old Worthington or Worthington Square and greet people I knew as a child, classmates from high school and friends of many years' standing. It is fun to share brunch at the Village Cupboard or a banquet at the Worthington Inn with professional colleagues, neighbors and friends.

My grandparents were proud to be citizens of Worthington. My grandfather, George T. Harding II, the founder of Harding Hospital, always said that the people of Worthington gave a cordial welcome to him and his staff when they moved here in 1919—except for one neighbor who felt having a psychiatric hospital next door would "ruin the neighborhood." After 72 years, both the hospital and the neighborhood are going strong. And the friendliness my grandparents found remains a characteristic of my home town to this day.

You don't have to be born in Worthington to be included in its life. Newcomers quickly become a part of neighborhoods, clubs and churches. The community is inclusive, rather than exclusive, which gives it a vitality that can be felt by the newest arrival. My grandfather quickly became active in the Chamber of Commerce and the Kiwanis Club. Two generations later, when my wife, Joan, came as a transplanted Californian, she found good neighbors, parks and a swimming pool, study groups, the Worthington Activity Club, and, later, Meals on Wheels—all glad to have her involvement.

Worthington is a wonderful place to live and an ideal place to raise a family. My home town's hopes for its children are shown in many ways, but most notably through the school system. It was not happenstance that Colonel Kilbourne and the other founders of Worthington set aside land for their church and for a school, even before establishing their own homes and farms. The ranking of Worthington as one of the outstanding school systems in the nation came as no surprise to me, but only confirmed what I know from personal experience as a student and a parent. No one who studied Latin as a high school freshman with Jeannette Frye as the teacher will ever forget that experience! What a pleasure it is now, after all these years, to be able to have Sunday brunch with her.

Like the young people of today, I benefited from Worthington's athletic programs. I played on the basketball teams of 1944 and 1945 when Worthington made it to the Ohio High School State Tournament twice in three years.

A total of 29 Hardings have attended Worthington High School. Our five daughters attended St. John's preschool, Colonial Hills kindergarten, Griswold Christian Academy and Worthington High School. They took advantage of the academic, athletic and social opportunities offered through the schools, and all the benefits of growing up in Worthington. Now they are planting seedlings of the Worthington quality of life in Alaska, New York City, California and Toledo.

Like the schools, churches have been a central part of our community. Worthington has always shown respect for things spiritual and for the freedom to exercise one's religious beliefs. That respect and acceptance of religious conviction and practice took precedence even over something as important as a state tournament basketball game, when my own spiritual conviction about my Sabbath left the team one player short 48 years ago.

Worthington has always been a diverse community. Some of our strongest families have been African-Americans who have made their marks in the schools, the professions, the business and the social life of our town. Today's citizenry is more diverse than ever, with people from all over the world who

came to work or study in Central Ohio and found Worthington to be a good place to live.

Worthington is proud of its history and protects that heritage in both official and voluntary ways. Preserving the New England atmosphere has meant everything from restoring historic places to enforcing ordinances about signs and architectural style. The Village Green in the center of Old Worthington, set aside by the original settlers, has been lovingly refurbished in recent years. Among the bricks that make up the walkways are the names of today's "settlers," who want to let future generations know that they, too, lived and worked here.

The New England attitude prevails as well in lively public discussions, at well-attended meetings of our city council and school board, in letters to the editors of our community weekly newspapers, in election campaigns. Freedom of expression is alive and well in Worthington.

Worthington enjoys a good time. There is always some sort of celebration going on—a block party, a picnic, a parade, a concert or festival on the Green, an art show, a travel film, a play, a lecture. "The thing I like about Worthington," a friend told me recently, "is that you can get as many people out to hear a lecture on mental health as you can to watch a football game."

Which brings up something that is very important to me. I have a unique opportunity to observe something about Worthington's acceptance of a psychiatric hospital. In my home town, people who are dealing with mental illness and working to be well are accepted and respected. Worthington is, in many ways, a therapeutic community. Candy Brooks, a local journalist, has suggested that this may be what is unique about our community. Perhaps so.

Like Worthington, other communities are beautiful. Other communities have nice homes, fine churches, strong businesses, good schools. I believe, as did my mother, Mary Virginia Harding, that Worthington's uniqueness is its spirit of community: caring for one another, respecting our diversity, enjoying one another's company, always seeking to do our best.

I am grateful to be one of Worthington's home-town boys. ■

Dr. George T. Harding IV is president and chief executive officer of Harding Hospital.

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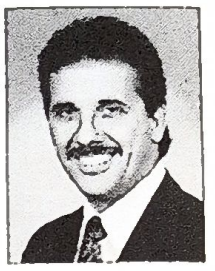

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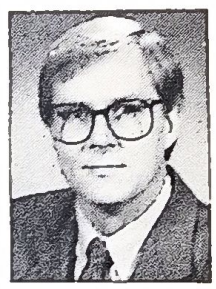

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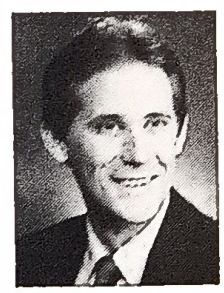

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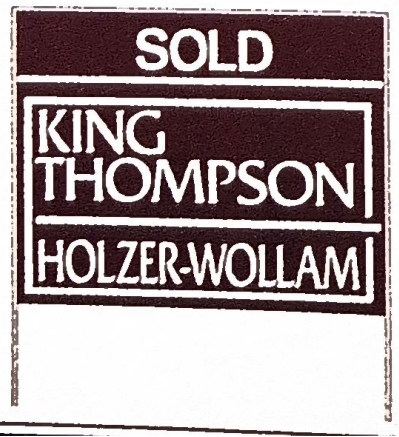

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Polaris

Continued from page 32

lived on the seven acres in Franklin County and zero people lived on the 1,286 acres in Delaware County, NP Limited's petition for annexation to Columbus was heard by the Franklin County commissioners, who happily approved it.

Calling the annexation "a ruse to exclude Delaware County voters," Delaware County prosecutor Duncan Whitney tried to block it in court. "We still feel like this was all wrong," said Delaware County Commissioner Merlin "Boots" Sheets. But when Delaware County officials realized their suit probably would be a loser, they agreed to drop it in exchange for NP Limited's agreement to build no apartments in Polaris and to give Orange Township trustees a voice in future "quality of life" issues like road development and buffer zones between commercial and residential areas. In January, 1991, Polaris became part of Columbus.

But Columbus, in its zeal to grab the potentially tax-rich project, had made a miscalculation. When the city offered to extend its sewers at no cost to the Polaris developers, city officials figured sewage from Polaris would flow naturally downhill into the city system. Oops! It turned out a $6 million lift station would be needed, an investment the city hadn't counted on making.

Enter Columbus City Council president Cindy Lazarus. Invited to speak to the Delaware Chamber of Commerce last February, Lazarus extended an olive branch: Why should we fight? Let's talk. Maybe we can both benefit.

None of the Delaware County commissioners were at that meeting, Lazarus recalls, but within a few weeks commission president Roy Jackson called. "I went to their regular meeting and it was a fairly tense situation," Lazarus says. There were TV cameras and reporters expecting fireworks. What they got instead was conciliation. "I offered to sit down and look at some of the issues," Lazarus says. "I said I felt if we had had a working relationship prior to the Polaris negotiations, it would have been less painful. . . . It took a real leap of faith by Roy Jackson and Boots Sheets and Fay Parrott [the third commissioner] to sit down with someone who basically was a stranger to them."

Sit down they did, though, and after eight months of negotiation they had hammered out a historic city-county agreement. To save Columbus the cost of building a lift station, Delaware County will process Polaris sewage under a contract with the city. Columbus in turn will handle the sewage from some other areas in southern Delaware County without insisting on annexation. Only water service remains unresolved, pending the outcome of a federal court suit between Columbus and Del-Co. Del-Co is providing water to Polaris under a temporary court order.

There are still rumbles of discontent in Orange Township, but Roy Jackson says the agreement "very much benefits Delaware County. It gives us some direction and removes annexation as an issue as far as services are concerned. It also removes any litigation. . . . Cindy Lazarus was very instrumental in getting this done. We don't want to be enemies; we want to be cooperating partners."

Sheets says he's sorry if some of his Orange Township constituents are still angry, but, "We felt we were thinking about what's best for Orange Township and the Olentangy schools." Unlike most suburban school districts in Franklin County, the small but rapidly growing Olentangy Local School District did not sign the "win-win" agreement, which mandates that land annexed by the city of Columbus also will be transferred to the city schools. So as things stand, school property taxes from Polaris—perhaps as much as $14 million annually when the project is fully developed—will go to Olentangy. That would be a huge windfall for the smaller district—more than $6,000 per pupil at current enrollment—and a bitter disappointment for Columbus.

But Bob Weiler, who lost a bid for reelection to the Columbus school board last November, says fairness demands that the city schools get at least a piece of Polaris's bounty. Columbus, which would have to leapfrog Worthington school territory to reach Polaris, hasn't yet made such a demand. But officials in both districts say a test case before the State Board of Education, followed by a lawsuit by the losing district, is one likely scenario. Another possibility is that the Olentangy schools will agree to give up some Polaris tax money if Columbus agrees not to demand it all.

Meanwhile, Bob Echele spends his time recruiting tenants. Already there's a 60,000-square-foot BFGoodrich Aerospace electronics assembly facility just about 100 yards from the I-71 off-ramp. A regional office for CIGNA Employee Benefits Company is under construction, and facilities for Beacon Insurance and Goal Systems International are scheduled for groundbreakings this year. It may be a bad time for speculative office developers, but there are still deals to be made for owner-occupied buildings.

Last November Echele, Weiler and Kelley closed what may be Polaris's breakthrough deal—an option contract with Forbes/Cohen Properties, a Michigan-based development firm, for a $200 million, 1.5-million-square-foot "superregional" mall. "Virtually every major mall developer who is active in the northeast United States has reacted very positively to the Polaris site," Weiler said at the announcement, "and many have negotiated with us to gain control of it."

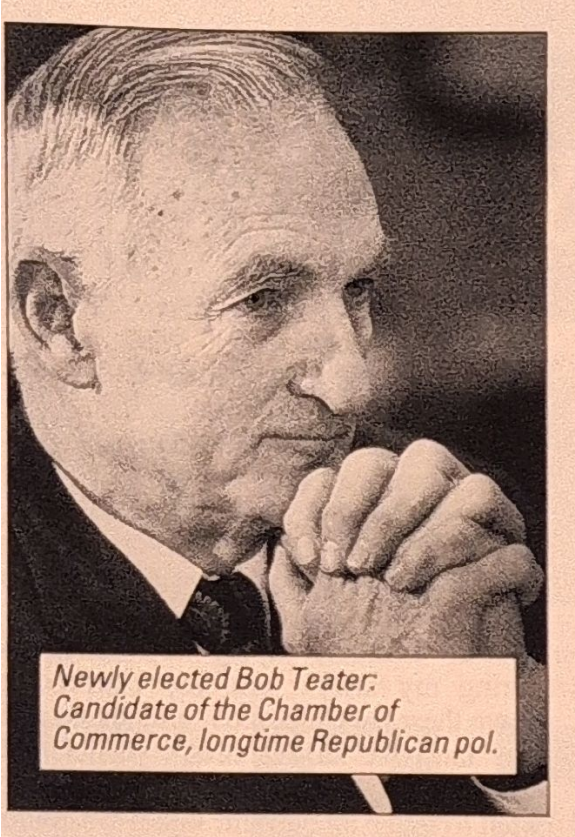
What tipped the balance in Forbes/Cohen's favor, according to Kelley, was that principals Maury Cohen and Nate Forbes, like Weiler and Kelley themselves, "have been married to the same women for 30 years." When Cohen telephoned on a Friday in October, saying he wanted to "bring my lawyer and my checkbook down there [to Columbus] on Sunday and stay until we have a deal," Weiler and Kelley knew he was serious. "We didn't want to make an outright sale if we could help it," Weiler says. "We wanted to be part of the ownership. If Forbes/Cohen had the choice, they would just have made an outright purchase." Weiler and Kelley hung tough, though, and by 10 pm the following Tuesday the deal was done, including a minority equity interest for NP Limited.

Cohen says he hopes to break ground in 1993 and have the mall open in 1995. But that's contingent on securing at least three upscale anchor stores with enough name value to guarantee the mall success. Forbes/Cohen will be pushing for commitments from stores like Saks, Bloomingdale's and Macy's, all tenants of the firm's classy Florida Gold Coast mall, The Gardens of the Palm Beaches. "We will bring you something you can be proud of," promises Cohen. "We will bring you something that will carry into the next century. We will bring you something world-class." But in the next breath he cautions that the Polaris mall could be delayed if the economy doesn't begin to improve soon.

That would be a blow to the NP Limited partners. But Bob Echele insists it wouldn't be fatal. "Our partnership dollars are all patient money," he says. "It's all equity. We can afford to wait and do it right." ■

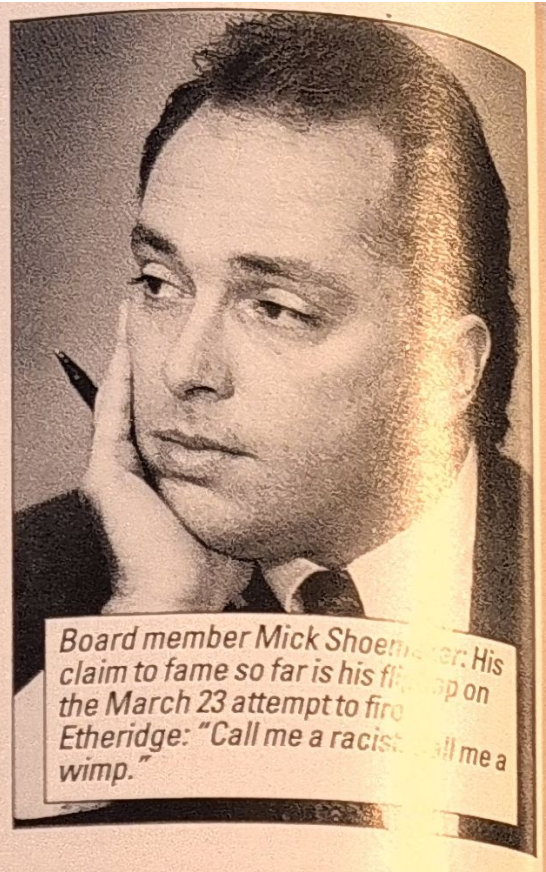
"When Cohen telephoned on a Friday in October, saying he wanted to 'bring my lawyer and my checkbook down there [to Columbus] on Sunday and stay until we have a deal,' Weiler and Kelley knew he was serious."

Herb Cook Jr. is a senior editor of Columbus Monthly.



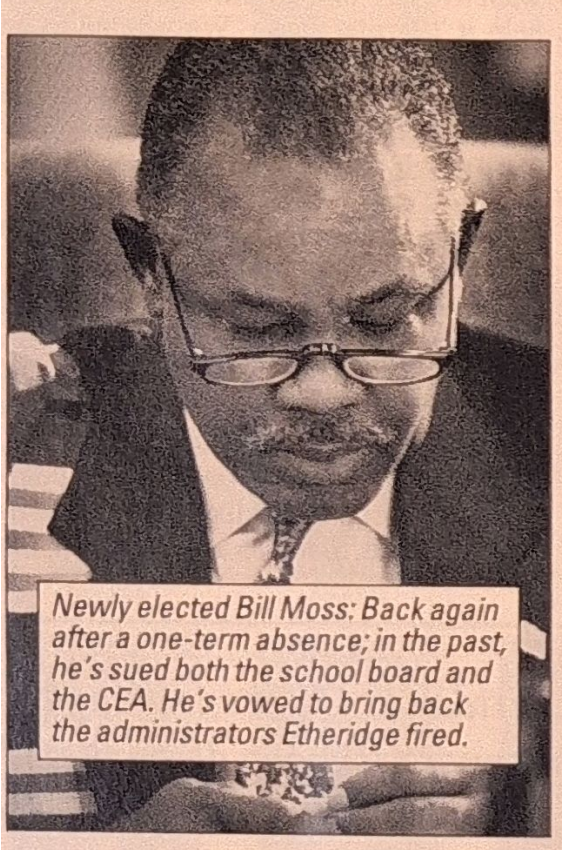
Newly elected Bob Teater: Candidate of the Chamber of Commerce, longtime Republican pol.

Reelected incumbent Sharlene Morgan: With the support of the three new members, stepped over vp Loretta Heard to be reelected board president. A new coalition?



Board member Mick Shoem[illegible]er: His claim to fame so far is his fi[illegible]p on the March 23 attempt to fire Etheridge: "Call me a racist[illegible]ll me a wimp."

Board member Loretta Heard: A board veteran; denial of this year's presidency can't help the relationship between her and Morgan.

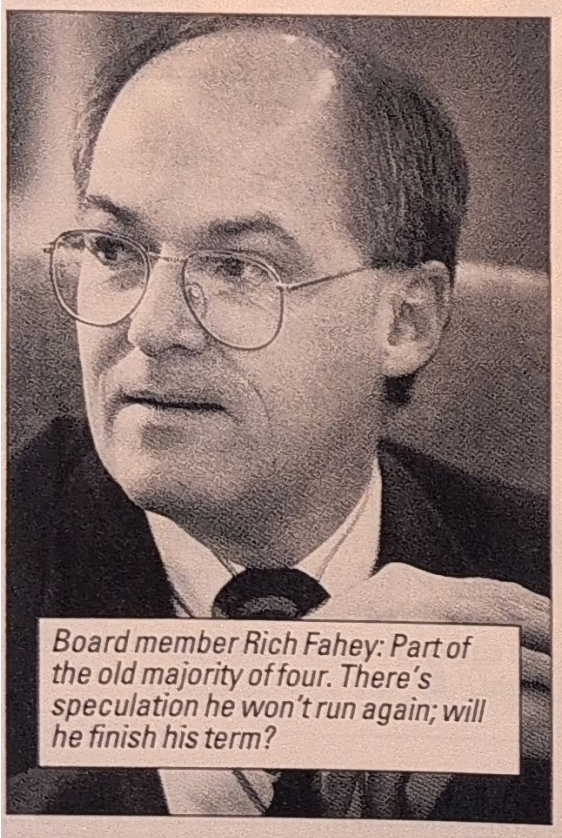


Newly elected Bill Moss: Back again after a one-term absence; in the past, he's sued both the school board and the CEA. He's vowed to bring back the administrators Etheridge fired.

On with the show

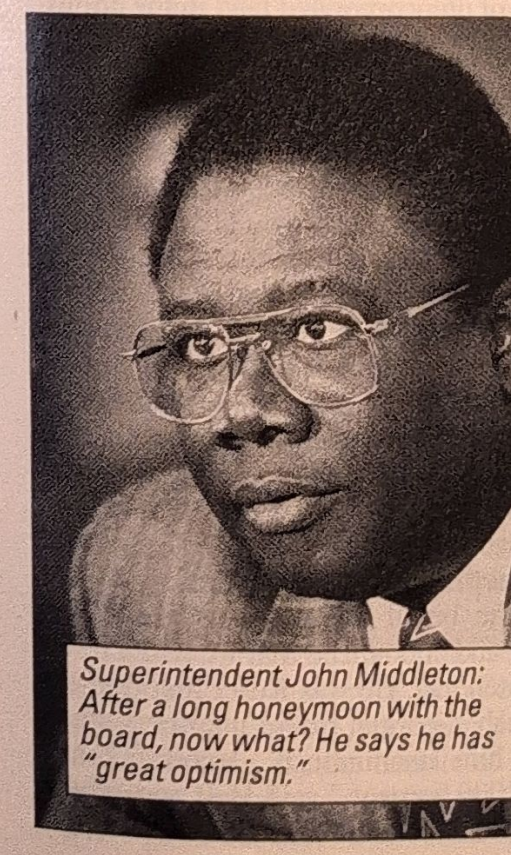
Factionalism!
Old animosities!
New personal agendas!
Loose cannons! Chaos! Politics galore!
Or . . . diligence and harmony.
What'll it be with the new school board?

By Margaret Newkirk



Board member Rich Fahey: Part of the old majority of four. There's speculation he won't run again; will he finish his term?

Newly elected Mary Jo Kilroy: Plaintiff's attorney by trade and liberal/radical activist by inclination. Wants Central High back from the city.



Superintendent John Middleton: After a long honeymoon with the board, now what? He says he has "great optimism."

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MICHAEL BARBER

Board member Loretta Heard: A board veteran; denial of this year's presidency can't help the relationship between her and Morgan.

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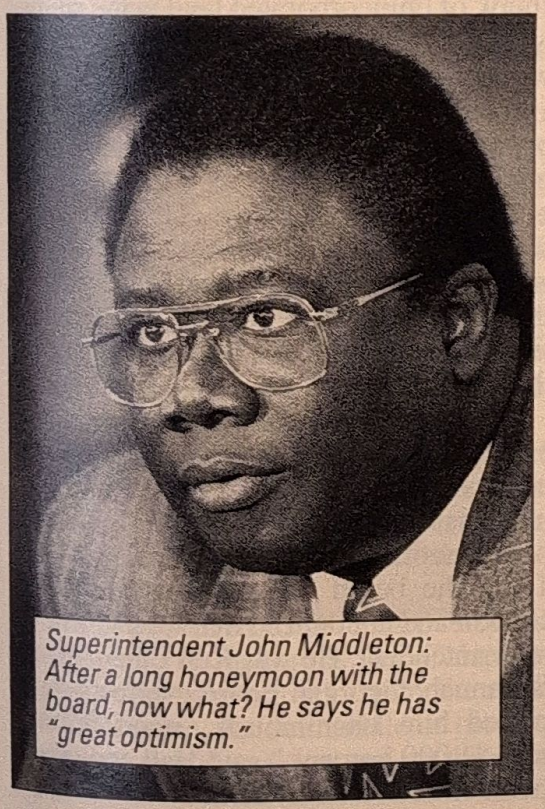

Superintendent John Middleton: After a long honeymoon with the board, now what? He says he has "great optimism."

Bob Weiler had to laugh.

It was right before a special Columbus Board of Education meeting in December. It was one of Weiler's last meetings; voters had dumped him in November.

Bill Moss was milling around out in the audience. Voters dumped Moss two years ago, then turned around and elected him again this fall. The meeting was Moss's first appearance at the board since winning the election.

So there they were, the winner and loser. Moss walked right up to Weiler and smiled.

"I can imagine how relieved you are," he said.

Weiler laughed. Only Moss would know. Weiler, who spent more than $23,000 trying to keep his seat on the board this past fall, was disappointed. Who wouldn't be? But just as Moss guessed, Weiler says now, he was also relieved—glad to be leaving the Columbus Board of Education.

Who wouldn't be?

The Columbus Board of Education has been a zoo for close to five years now. The board can claim to have ticked off almost everybody in town, including the Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce, Columbus City Council, the mayor, the black community and nearly every constituency in between.

When things got quiet, board members lambasted each other. They sniped at the board table, in the halls and in the media. By the end—largely because of the Ron Etheridge controversy—the board's warring camps had become rigidly predictable. Weiler, Rich Fahey, Loretta Heard and Mick Shoemaker, against Sharlene Morgan, Anne Hall and, usually, Pauline Radebaugh.

The hostility was clear, public and, as the board's season in hell dragged on, increasingly personal. Weiler saw his longtime friendship with Pauline Radebaugh damaged for a time, as the two squared off on whether and when to get rid of then superintendent Ron Etheridge. And the bad blood between Morgan and Heard—also split on the Etheridge question—was as bad as it gets.

But that was then. If Bob Weiler gets to feel a little relief now, so, some would say, should everybody else. Ron Etheridge —the guy who fractured the old board beyond repair—is long gone now. So is the school board that hired him. A new and different board took its seat on State Street in January.

Only four of the former sparring partners remain on the board—Morgan, Shoemaker, Fahey and Heard. That's part of the difference.

That Bob Weiler lost his seat is also part of it; Weiler was the symbolic head of and critical fourth vote for a four-member board coalition that pretty much had its way with schools policy over the past few years. The Weiler-Fahey-Heard-Shoemaker coalition is dead. And Sharlene Morgan, after years in the board minority, has a clear shot at leading a brand-new majority coalition.

That's assuming, of course, that the new school board is capable of forming any kind of coalitions at all. There are more than a few schools watchers out there who doubt that. The board's newcomers are an odd mix.

We've got Moss, renegade, orator and purveyor of conspiracy theories, returning for his third nonconsecutive term on the board. Moss's claims to

fame include a lawsuit against the school board during his first term, a lawsuit against the Columbus Education Association after his second, and a string of once controversial positions, almost all of which have been vindicated over time. Early indications are that Moss could come back swinging; he went on the radio the week after the November election, vowing to bring back the administrators fired under Ron Etheridge and to hold new superintendent John Middleton's feet to the fire about the rest of the Etheridge legacy.

Then there's Mary Jo Kilroy, plaintiff's attorney by trade and liberal/radical activist by inclination. Kilroy's a political

"Kilroy campaigned on a series of issues that are almost guaranteed to cause trouble. The Columbus Education Association was 'amused' at her proposal for a longer school year."

newcomer, a '60s-style "flower child," according to one former board member. And she campaigned on a series of issues that are almost guaranteed to cause trouble. The Columbus Education Association was "amused" at her proposal for a longer school year. And Kilroy has suggested a new global education high school at Central High, which she believes the city should give back.

Finally, there's Bob Teater, Republican war horse, the man most likely to represent the Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce on the Columbus Board of Education. Teater's big issue is controversy. He wants less of it, wants to "get the lightning rod off the school board."

Add the board's old-timers and you have a board that is "not naturally cohesive," as unsuccessful board candidate Trish Pauken tactfully put it once.

Morgan and Heard still don't get along. Any hope that they might even *try* dissolved in January, when 1991 president Morgan blithely stole the '92 presidency from Heard—who, as last year's vice president, was in line for it. The three new board members joined Morgan in voting for Morgan. The old Weiler voting block was outnumbered.

Morgan also was prepared to flout Heard's vice-presidential choice—Mick Shoemaker. Morgan backed newcomer Bob Teater, as did Moss. Kilroy joined Fahey, Heard and Shoemaker, though, in making Shoemaker the vice president.

Shoemaker, now in his third year as a board member, has distinguished himself mostly by his caution. In the eyes of Morgan and Moss, he is inextricably tied to the old Weiler-led gang of four.

And Fahey, rumor has it, spent the month after the election telling everybody who would listen just how much he dreaded the board that would convene in January. His friends believe he'll refuse to run again when his current term is up in two years. His detractors doubt he'll make it that long.

It's a new board all right. But is it a better one? Yes, according to the board members. Two weeks after the election, the new board was out there swearing they could and would get along, that the new board was *not* as bad as people think. Really.

Believe it at your own risk. Columbus schools have an agenda ahead of them that would be controversial in the best of worlds. Board unity—or even peaceful disunity—is possible, but not probable.

The board's five-year-old season of discontent may be only the beginning.

The board's mean season probably began in 1986—the year former superintendent Jim Hyre left. It was a good year. The district had seen court-ordered busing lifted the year before, and had just negotiated the "win-win" annexation agreements with the suburbs. A nasty school boundary turf war had been averted, and the Columbus system was going to nab dozens and dozens of middle-class white kids one day.

Back then, Columbus was proud of its school system or Jim Hyre would die trying. He held pep rallies, touted National Merit Scholars and test scores and science fairs and anything else he could find that demonstrated the district's superiority. Columbus's dropout rate, at about 2 percent, was the lowest of any urban district in the state, Hyre would say. The Columbus Public Schools district was progressive, nationally recognized as an urban district that really worked.

It all seems kind of sad now. The touted win-win agreement would take a body blow a little more than a year later. Within two years, the school system would be called a system in crisis. Even the 2 percent dropout rate would turn out to be 36 percent too low.

It all would happen under the watchful eye of the school board of 1988, a board that has changed by only one member until this year. The board that took its seat that year included two newcomers—Anne Hall and Sharlene Morgan. Two of the board's five incumbents also were fairly new. Bob Weiler and Rich Fahey both won election for the first time in 1987, after being appointed to the board less than two years earlier. The board's three other members were Pauline Radebaugh, Bill Moss and Loretta Heard.

Board members had some hard tasks ahead of them. They had to find a new superintendent, for one thing. With the lifting of the busing court order, the development community was pressing for revamped transportation patterns. And there was this hype problem.

"There was a lot of erroneous great-

ness being thrown around," says H
"I don't think too many people really be
lieved our 2 percent dropout rate

"The problem," says Hall, "w
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ideal, we let the PR come down to
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To make matters worse, the
got blindsided by unexpected
ties, like the Wesley brouhaha
broke right around election day
Wexner's plan to annex a large
unincorporated Plain Township
Albany and Plain Local School
board members, who called it
of the new win-win agreement
ment they thought guaranteed
rated land to Columbus schools

Win-win flunked its first
ally, the new board stood by a

At the new board's Jan. 2 organizational meeting

the biggest, soon-to-be wealthiest single chunk of unincorporated land in the county just slip away. The touted agreement was not what it had seemed.

Meanwhile, the board was fast developing a habit of turning almost anything into a controversy. Board members botched their first attempt at hiring a new superintendent, for instance. The search was so doggedly public that it scared off the finalists, whose home-town reputations were suffering. Finally, the board threw out the whole list and started over.

Search Two wasn't much better. Anne Hall was in charge of it, and she conducted it, she says, just like a private company's search for a new CEO. Hall told the public nothing. Suddenly, in the spring of 1988, the board came out of executive session and announced that we had a new superintendent. He was Ron Etheridge of Savannah, Georgia. Board members supported him unanimously, stood behind him "1,000 percent," said Hall and other board members at the time.

It wasn't quite true. Sharlene Morgan, for instance, reportedly never liked Etheridge. Radebaugh was 1,000 percent behind interim superintendent Damon Asbury, not Etheridge. Loretta Heard liked Etheridge a lot. Fahey was lukewarm. In straw votes around the table, Etheridge got the support of only four board members at first. No other candidate got more.

Etheridge's faults have been well-documented in the years since then. He was highhanded and pushy. He talked over people's heads. He played favorites.

He also brought bad news.

The board had hired themselves a reformer, a man charged with puncturing Jim Hyre's PR balloon, and with working on the district's problems realistically. Etheridge was obsessed with his charge. He also was obsessed with numbers. He kept exhaustive track of each student in each class in every grade—their grades, their test scores, whether a student was or was not on the district's low-income school lunch program.

The result was an avalanche of devastating stats:

- The dropout rate had reached 38 percent.
- Only 54 percent of the 1984 ninth-graders graduated on time four years later.
- In one grading period during Etheridge's tenure, 63 percent of the ninth-graders had a D or F average, and 55 percent of all high school students had a D or F average.
- Poor elementary schoolchildren were running 10 or more months behind other children in reading and math.

For the district that had considered itself progressive, up-and-coming, even nationally recognized, it was overwhelmingly bad news. These were people's kids. And people got mad.

Reform proved to be controversial to the point of disastrous in Columbus schools, and had no help from the abrasive Etheridge. By the middle of his second year, nobody was neutral on the man. Tim Ilg, an assistant superintendent under Etheridge, now superintendent in a suburban Dayton-area school district, describes a feeling of living in a medieval royal court—with everyone whispering about who was and who wasn't out of favor at the moment, about who did and who didn't have influence. Ilg, widely considered Etheridge's hatchet man, says he sees Etheridge's flaws more clearly now; some of the reforms Etheridge wanted were, in fact, impractical, he says.

Still, says Ilg, Etheridge has been misunderstood. "He was a brilliant educator, but he was impatient. He liked to get things done. His position was that you were talking about a child's life and that you didn't have time to wait."

On the board, Etheridge usually could count on Weiler, Heard and Fahey, with the addition of Shoemaker after Moss lost his 1989 reelection bid. But even they have mixed feelings.

"Etheridge's trouble was that he was very truthful," says Weiler. "You don't need to tell everything at once. When he came on the school scene, he destroyed our self-confidence and self-esteem—some people felt, with justification."

"Ron Etheridge was a hard person to like," Weiler says. "His façade was very hard. I'm married to a gal who loves everybody, and she didn't like him."

Add up the collective rage of every board member that hated Ron Etheridge and it doesn't even come close to the kind of animosity Bill Moss remembers feeling. Moss's version is that Etheridge was a tool of Columbus's power brokers, sent in to destroy education for blacks and poor whites.

"I was absolutely vindicated," says Moss. "That man was brought in here, by the boys downtown, to bring chaos and create the kind of havoc that he did. They brought him in and then they got rid of me."

"People felt powerless," says Moss. "They felt there was no way this man should have been able to gut the school system the way he did."

The milestones of the fall of Ron Etheridge are the stuff of legend by now—the rancorous meeting at Shiloh Baptist in 1989, the unprecedented organized black opposition to the school levy, an attempt to recall the entire board of education.

The board fractured along the same timeline. Animosities got deeper and the rhetoric got increasingly hysterical. The board couldn't agree on anything.

Meanwhile, the black community got active in school politics, as did the two political parties and the Chamber of Commerce. The pressures on the school board became both more diverse and more intense.

Etheridge crusaded on, proposing one reform after another. Some actually happened. Most didn't. And all of them paled next to Etheridge's final reform, a massive overhaul of the district's administration.

Etheridge's administrative reorganizations, cutbacks requested by the board, were his undoing. When he demoted two very popular high-level black administrators, then fired 32 administrators and gave 33 others probationary contracts, all hell broke loose.

On March 23, the day the board was to approve those cuts, the *Columbus Dispatch* flashed a front-page headline saying Etheridge would be ousted that afternoon by a coalition that included Anne Hall, Pauline Radebaugh, Sharlene Morgan and Mick Shoemaker. Moss was off the board by then.

That meeting was probably the saddest display of incompetence in the board's history. The coalition fell apart. Radebaugh and Shoemaker waffled in front of a packed board meeting room.

"Call me a racist. Call me a wimp," Shoemaker said as he announced he'd changed his mind and would support Etheridge. The crowd obliged.

The board never recovered.

"It was our darkest day," says board member Rich Fahey. "And it wasn't even about Ron, by that time. It was sort of like football and Ron was the ball. It was about how many members are on the board, about whether I get disenfranchised, about whether we discuss this."

"It was really sad. It clouded things for us for probably a year."

Pressure kept mounting—from all sides. Eight organized black groups showed up in July to announce that they'd fight the levy and that they were circulating petitions to dump every board member except Sharlene Morgan.

When Etheridge finally left the district, a critical school levy had failed and Jim Hyre's wonder school district had become financially strapped, shell-shocked and cautious.

Exactly how damaging the Etheridge years had been became obvious fairly early last year, when candidates for the school board started announcing. Radebaugh, who once swore she'd be out there fighting for her school system until she dropped, didn't run. The compulsively political Anne Hall, with no other political career in sight, also dropped out. "Being on the school board hasn't exactly helped my political career," she told a reporter in December.

> *"But what's got schools watchers ready to duck is the prospect of Moss and Kilroy in combination. Two zealots. Two political outsiders. And two radically opposed points of view."*

Seventeen candidates filed for the election. It was a recipe for one of those "anything goes" elections and, true to form, anything went. Morgan, who had managed to insulate herself from the Etheridge controversy, led the ticket Nov. 5. Weiler came in sixth. Kilroy, with no major endorsements, no big backers and no name recognition, beat out candidates with all three. And Moss won back his board seat having garnered 7,000 fewer votes than he got when he lost it in 1989.

When schools watchers predict that the new school board members could mean trouble, it's not Bob Teater they're talking about. Teater has critics, of course, people who point out that he hasn't been even remotely involved in schools politics in the past, that he's a Chamber of Commerce, downtown power brokers draftee—the schools version of Greg Lashutka. Schools watchers expect him to cozy up to the board's black members and push a Chamber of Commerce agenda—like an end to racial busing.

But even Teater's detractors doubt he'll be causing much chaos on the board.

Where schools watchers do see a problem is with Bill Moss and Mary Jo Kilroy. Moss, for instance, can be cantankerous even in the best of situations.

"That's just Bill," says Weiler. "You can be taking a vote on whether it's Friday on a Friday, and Bill will vote against it because it's some other day on the other side of the International Dateline."

And Moss, never humble, is returning to the board a vindicated man, particularly in his opposition to Ron Etheridge.

"People would come running out of stores," Moss says of his low-budget campaign. "They'd come right out to me and say, 'I used to think you were a nut. And doggone it, I think you were right, now.' My tactics may be questionable, but when nobody is listening, you've got to scream."

What Kilroy will be like as an individual board member is still open to question. But, like Moss, she's a bit of a zealot. And, as it is with Moss, that could be good or bad.

But what's got schools watchers ready to duck is the prospect of Moss and Kilroy in combination. Two zealots. Two political outsiders. And two radically opposed points of view.

That's not to say that Moss and Kilroy never will agree. Kilroy wants a longer school year. Moss may like the idea just because the CEA doesn't. Kilroy never liked win-win. Neither did Moss. Kilroy wants Central High back. Moss never wanted to let it go.

But then there's busing. A change in the district's racial busing policies is likely to top the new board's agenda. Moss never liked busing. He calls it a "corrupt and racially motivated" practice, designed to "destabilize the black community." Most board members are more or less with Moss on the issue now, though for different reasons.

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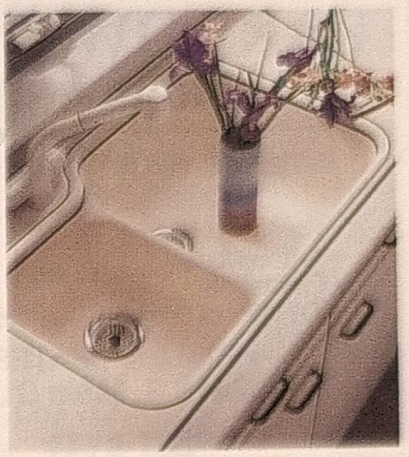

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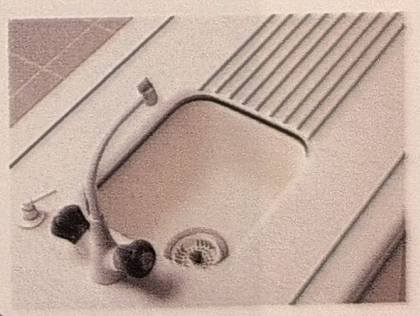

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Kilroy disagrees with the anti-busing push. Vehemently. She grimaces at the term "forced busing," and says most people who are talking about ending it don't even have their facts straight.

"I bring to the board that ideal of an integrated, harmonious community," says Kilroy. "If we'd lived up to the promise of improving the schools at the time we integrated them, it would be different. Busing is important in teaching kids to learn about each other and not to be afraid of each other."

Kilroy and Moss already had an argument over the issue in a radio station parking lot during the campaign.

The two also are likely to disagree vehemently on the whole reform question. It's a tricky issue these days. Nobody's out there gathering devastating statistics anymore. The district's numbers crunchers haven't kept track of the dropout rate for instance, since Etheridge left. No

"In a world where superintendents and their school boards almost inevitably clash, Middleton has enjoyed an unbelievably long honeymoon."

has asked. What stats there are circulate between the administration and the individual school buildings, not to the board and the public.

The district is hunkered down. The idea that it needs urgent and radical reform is something nobody in the post-Etheridge district wants to touch any time soon.

Nobody, that is, except Kilroy.

"I feel a real urgency," Kilroy says. "We're behind. We're behind the times. Education is crucial. I have contradictory impulses. I want it fast. But I know you have to get the community involved and that slows things down and that's good in the long run. But I still feel this urgency."

That's the kind of crusading that really ticks Bill Moss off. He doesn't believe it. He doesn't even believe it's well-intentioned.

"Every year or so, they come up with a reform plan, a plan to turn the school district upside down," Moss says. "The surrounding districts don't do that—not Bexley, or Arlington or Worthington. You don't have that kind of upheaval. It's ongoing destabilization. And it's maintained by the people who are controlling the board of education in this city and who live in Bexley and Worthington—those people who sit in the tall buildings downtown and tell the school board what to do."

Exactly how the board's two idealists will fit in with the rest is what nobody knows yet. Moss and Morgan have been allies in the past. Kilroy and Morgan could be natural allies as well, though they disagree on busing. Moss's "people who sit in tall buildings" still will be in there, pulling the board in one direction. Black community leaders will be working their own agenda, too.

The bright spot in all this, of course, is superintendent John Middleton. In a world where superintendents and their school boards almost inevitably clash, Middleton has enjoyed an unbelievably long honeymoon.

One of the scariest prospects about the newly elected school board was that the honeymoon would end, and that it would end at the hands of Bill Moss. Moss says otherwise. Moss's people, the black community, he says, "are hopeful about this man. He's a nice man. He's a people person. And he talks about children, which is refreshing."

Middleton detractors—and there are a few—say he's too conservative, that in the pull away from Etheridge-style reform, Middleton threw out everything Etheridge did right. The kind of reform program Middleton announced after taking over is, in fact, somewhat conservative. Middleton's "Effective Schools" program has been around since the 1970s. It's a back-to-basics approach—no overhauls, no big changes, and, according to one detractor, no proven track record of success.

"There are no quick fixes," says Middleton. "We took many years to get where we are. As we attempt to change the culture of each school setting, as we try to make them places of high expectations and success, we know that that is a process, not an event. It doesn't happen because we say it will happen tomorrow."

Middleton is optimistic about the new school board, though it's doubtful he'd say if he weren't. He knows that he has managed to "improve the relationship between the superintendent and the board," an understatement of almost comic proportions.

"I've got great optimism for the coming year," he says. "The new board seem to be people who have the interests of children at heart, and I really believe they'll be able to come together over that interest."

And maybe they will. Maybe Moss and Kilroy will hit it off. Maybe Morgan and Heard will bury the hatchet. Maybe Shoemaker will grow bold, and Fahey will grow optimistic and Teater will grow his hair long and go radical.

Maybe.

Bob Weiler's still relieved he's not there to watch. ■

Margaret Newkirk is a staff writer for Columbus Monthly.

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BY ERIK BATTENBERG

The Coax-ing of high school basketball

If it's Friday, this must be Olentangy v. Utica. And Coax's TV team will be there.

Watching the Olentangy High School boys basketball team take on Utica High School at the OHS gym the Friday before Christmas is not exactly like watching the Buckeyes play at St. John Arena. The players are smaller, the ball-handling less polished, the shooting less accurate, the slam dunks nonexistent. But it still makes for good entertainment on its own level.

Watching the game again a couple hours later on Coaxial Cable is not exactly like watching the Buckeyes on national television. The camera angles are fewer, the lighting dimmer, the images less sharp, Dick Vitale nonexistent. But . . . it still makes for good entertainment on its own level.

"We try to do what we can do with the equipment we have," says Drexel Yokoyama, executive producer of the broadcast. "We try to compare ourselves, literally, with ABC and ESPN." Comparing Coaxial's broadcasts with those of the national networks is like comparing an Elvis impersonator with Elvis; there are basic similarities, but even the most casual observer would notice a big difference if the two were playing on side-by-side televisions. Nonetheless, Yokoyama is justified in being proud of the broadcasts.

Though Coaxial has only a fraction of the budget and crew the major networks have, there isn't a weak link in its small chain. The announcers speak clearly and are familiar with the players, the cameramen follow the action pretty well and keep it in focus, instant replay and computer graphics are used effectively, the microphones pick up the band, cheerleaders, ball-bounces and whistles. For the players, their parents, their friends and their classmates, watching the Coaxial broadcasts is like watching the Super Bowl.

"We've had an overwhelming letter-writing response from parents" who enjoy

MICHAEL BARBER

Coaxial's Ray Miller, left, and Randy Rhinehart at Olentangy Valley High School.

the broadcasts, says Tom Flerlage, corporate affairs manager for Coaxial. The cable service began broadcasting high school sports nine years ago, Flerlage says, after requests came in from subscribers. "It kind of brings something home when you see your kids on TV," she says. "I think we would be run out of town if we stopped doing it." Coaxial will broadcast about a dozen basketball games this season. Some of the contests also are picked up by Warner Cable and All-American Cablevision when teams in those cable services' coverage zones are involved.

The voices of Coaxial's telecasts belong to play-by-play man Randy Rhinehart and color analyst Ray Miller. Being seen and heard on cable television each week during the season has garnered each of them a measure of fame. Rhinehart says he has been asked to sign autographs at some of the smaller schools from which he has broadcast, and Miller says once while he was eating at a Ponderosa, he overheard another diner mention his presence.

But Rhinehart, who spends his days as sports director for WMNI Radio, didn't get into broadcasting for the star treatment. "I pretty much grew up loving high school sports," he says. "It's like the last true level of amateur sports." Broadcasting high school sports and getting paid for it is a great gig for him.

Rhinehart says he researches both teams before every game he broadcasts. He visits the schools, interviews the coaches and gives profile forms to the players. When calling the games, Rhinehart uses a sheet of paper crammed with information, including key statistics, hobbies and anecdotes, about each of the players. At his side is statistician Mark Metheny, who keeps track of the players' progress throughout the game and feeds that information, along with past statistics for both teams, to Rhinehart. On the air, the research pays off, and Rhinehart comes across as comfortable and authoritative.

Miller has been Rhinehart's broadcasting partner for four years. He coached at the high school level for 17 years, and today is athletic director at Grove City. For game broadcasts, Miller says he gets information from Rhinehart and focuses on game plans, name pronunciations and tendencies of coaches and players. Although he's not as polished on the air as Rhinehart is, Miller's coaching experience shows when he's commenting on a game.

Hours before Miller and Rhinehart's research and preparations for the Olentangy-Utica game are to be utilized, Yokoyama and members of his 13-man production crew are at the high school setting things up. Hand-held cameras are used at each end of the court and another is placed on a tripod at midcourt. Both broadcasters arrive early, before the junior varsity contest, which won't be televised, is over. Rhinehart tapes the voiceover for the show's opening while Miller stands watching the game. Even though he no longer has a potential coaching interest in it, Miller pays close attention to the JV match-up.

When the warm-up game ends and the varsity players start getting ready, Miller and Rhinehart tape an opening segment from folding chairs placed on the court. Rhinehart says both teams play opening games, and Miller says it probably be a case in which the last team to score will win. Both speak with great enthusiasm. The hype machine is rolling.

The game begins, and the first quarter goes just as Rhinehart and Miller predicted. A fast-paced, high-scoring quarter ends with three points separating the teams and Rhinehart exclaiming, "What a quarter!"

While Miller, Rhinehart and Metheny sit courtside wearing headsets, with a television monitor and lots of notes in front of them, Yokoyama is in a Coaxial truck outside with his crew. With him is an audio engineer who boosts and reduces sounds from the microphones inside as the action dictates, a videotape operator who reviews and cues up plays for instant replay, a computer graphics engineer who prepares all the overlays (such as the score) that go on the screen, and a director, who tells the three cameramen what to film and chooses which of the cameras to put on screen. Eleven video screens, two computer monitors and oodles of dials and switches are at their fingertips. They're a tight-knit group. They laugh at Miller's on-air jokes and kid each other about eating all the Christmas cookies. They work well together.

"Miller and Rhinehart aren't household names, but they are known at many area high schools and at least one Ponderosa."

In the second quarter, the game opens up. Utica takes control and goes into halftime with a 19-point lead. During the short intermission, while fathers tell each other what Olentangy's coach is doing wrong, high schoolers catch up on the latest gossip and vendors vend hot dogs, candy, soda and other concessions at great prices, Miller and Rhinehart do their halftime show.

Rhinehart starts by interviewing Tom Crawford, who works for the company that sponsors the broadcast's "Players of the Game" feature. Crawford talks about the medical facility he works for and Rhinehart listens attentively.

After Rhinehart's interview with Crawford, Miller does his "Key-by-Play" segment. Using an X-and-O board, Miller points out plays that were key to the game's outcome. Then the director rolls videotape from the first half that is meant to illustrate Miller's point. The segment doesn't match up too well with Miller's diagram, but the lesson seems comprehensible anyway. "I feel my job is to educate the people about the game of basketball," Miller says.

The teams come out of the locker room and start the second half. Utica continues to dominate until the final quarter, when a hot streak by Olentangy pulls the score within seven points before Utica regains control and wins by 10. As Rhinehart and Miller wait to interview the winning coach, the grandfather of one of the Olentangy players complains to Rhinehart about the officiating. Rhinehart doesn't agree or disagree with the man but leaves him out and watches him walk. Both Miller and Rhinehart are more than willing to talk to other fans who approach them. "I try to go out of my way to meet the people who come out to the games," Miller says.

Yokoyama comes over to Rhinehart after the fans leave and congratulates him for an "excellent call." Rhinehart is still talking about the game, pointing out surprising, in his eyes, statistics. He admits he spent most of the day in bed with the flu but says the game he just called made him forget his illness.

Rhinehart has been calling games for Coaxial, including high school basketball and football, the Clippers and the Horizon, since 1983. He also has called state championship high school football and basketball for Sports Channel Ohio, an all-sports cable channel.

Miller's background includes 17 seasons as head coach for basketball teams at Ventue, Crooksville, Logan and Grove City high schools, with an overall record of 184 wins and 102 losses, he says. Coaxial called Miller immediately after he retired from coaching in March of 1986 and offered him the job, he says. "I guess I said some things that struck them as being knowledgeable about the game."

On its own level—like Utica and Olentangy—the Coaxial team is good at what it does. The production men and broadcasters take rightful pride in their work. Miller and Rhinehart aren't household names, but they are known at many area high schools and at least one Ponderosa. Both say they enjoy their work and aren't actively pursuing jobs with bigger broadcasters.

"I'm just a guy talking about the games," Rhinehart says. "That's my job. . . . I don't think I'm an underachiever. I just think I know my limitations." ■

Erik Battenberg is a staff writer for Suburban News Publications and music critic for The Other Paper.

BY EMILY FOSTER

More trouble on Griggs Reservoir

Every time Griggs makes the news, politicians and city officials duck. Is this the squabble that will never die?

Like Loch Ness, Griggs Reservoir has a monster, the status of the land along the west river bank. After years of wrangling and unpleasant headlines, city officials are highly sensitive about the subject. Bring it up with John Doutt, the administrator of the water division, and he'll ask with a groan, "You trying to nail me to the cross?"

As recently as this past November, the monster surfaced long enough to take a bite out of City Hall. The mayor, Buck Rinehart, did a Buck Rinehart by seeming to bless a proposal to sell city property to the river bank homeowners for $5,000 an acre. As soon as environmentalists and City Council president Cindy Lazarus squawked and columnists sounded off, he angrily wrote, "Nothing could be further from the truth. I have *never* recommended the sale of this land." And he rode off into the sunset of his mayoral career. At the same time, the director of the Department of Recreation and Parks and the city attorney exchanged shots in public about which of them was being soft on homeowners who had encroached on city property. It's been enough to make a voter's head spin.

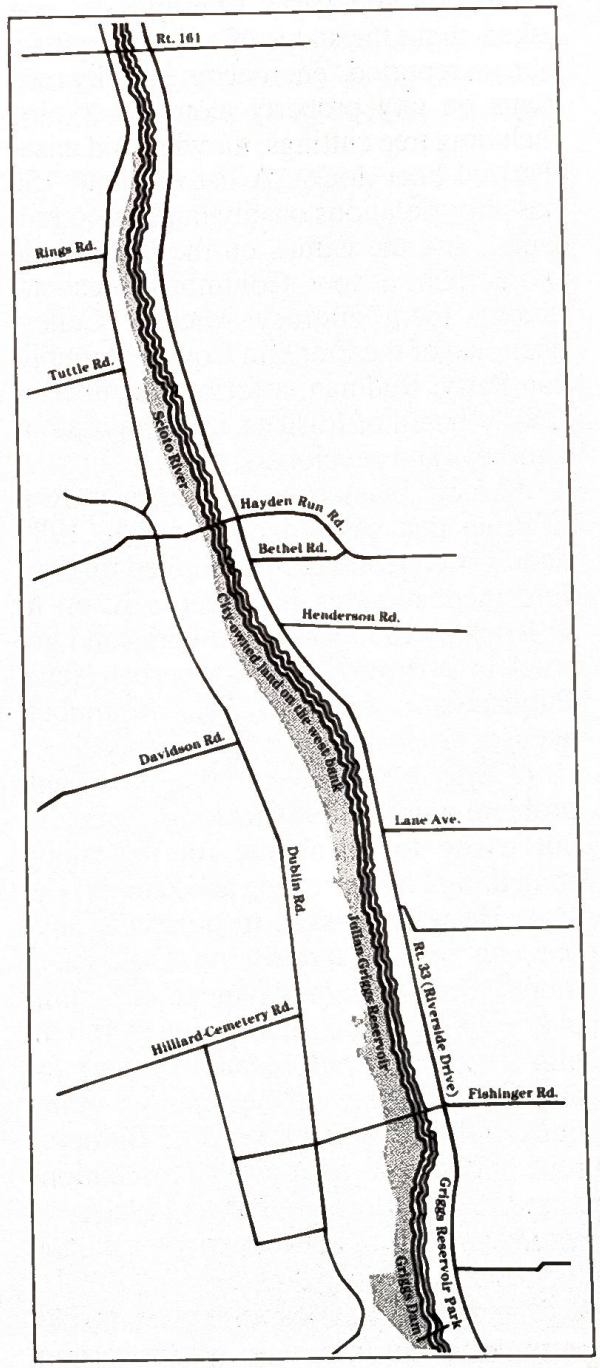
A few hundred acres snaking up the Scioto River sure make everyone tetchy. The city acquired the land about 100 years ago in preparation for building Griggs Reservoir. While most of it was bought outright by the city, a small strip, currently subdivided into about 27 parcels near Old Poste Road, was taken by eminent domain through probate court. In the years since then, real estate agents, developers and homeowners came to believe that this strip in particular and much of the west bank in general belonged to the adjacent homeowners, and the city didn't do much to assert its claim. To make matters worse, rumor had it that the probate court records had been destroyed by fire in 1911, so no one would ever be able to resolve the question.

In the '60s and '70s, rich folk bought land along the west bank, built big houses and treated themselves to such amenities as swimming pools, fancy permanent boat docks and parklike landscaping down to the river bank. City administrators apparently winked at the cutting and clearing and building on city property. It's part of the lore, now that he's dead, to blame former Recreation and Parks director Mel Dodge for much of the winking on behalf of the influential homeowners. One person who has been involved in trying to settle the issue says, "It doesn't take a Rhodes scholar to recognize that . . . apparently deals have been struck."

In 1972 Columbus proposed laying a huge sewer pipe in the west river bank to serve the suburbs of Hilliard and Dublin. The city even purchased construction easements to widen some of its land holdings along the river. But the west bank homeowners formed the Scioto River Association and argued about ownership so vigorously that the city finally put off construction. Still, the question of ownership, once raised, wouldn't rest.

The '80s brought more environmental awareness, more recreational use of the river and more questions about the stewardship of the river bank. And some populist resentment, too, that a few bigshots seemed to be squatting on public property, and even treating it as their own. Of course, many of the homeowners claimed it was their own.

Last September E.C. Redman, the feisty octogenarian chairman of the Scioto River Association, wrote to Rinehart suggesting that the city consider making a "lease/purchase option agreement" with residents. Redman classified the river bank land as: Class 1, the land owned by the city; Class 2, land of which ownership is in dispute, and Class 3, land owned by the residents. He suggested that Class 1 owners could lease the city land for $100 a



The land in question lies along the west bank of the Scioto; it is shown here in gray.

year, with an option to buy the land for $5,000 an acre. Class 2 owners could lease or not, as they pleased.

Rinehart replied cautiously, not expressing explicit support for Redman's proposal but laying out the procedures the SRA would have to follow for making a land purchase. His letter concluded by thanking Redman for "your thoughtful proposal" and asking him "in which manner the association and its membership would like to proceed."

A couple of weeks later, he was quoted in the *Dispatch*, "I want to see us sell some but control it through deed restrictions." The article was headlined, "Mayor suggests selling Griggs land." That's when the doo-doo started to fly. Council president Cindy Lazarus said she was "shocked" at the idea. Rinehart said he never said it. Although he didn't return a call for this piece, his press secretary, Carrie Bartunek, said he had already made himself quite clear. "He doesn't think we should sell it; he doesn't think we should not sell it, but he thinks we should look into it and see if it would be beneficial to the city," she explained.

At the same time, Recreation and Parks director Jim Barney, who reports not to Rinehart but to a mayor-appointed Recreation and Parks Commission, was asked about the status of enforcement action on reported "encroachments" by residents on city property along reservoirs, including tree cuttings, mowing and unauthorized boat docks. A list of about 150 possible violations on city land was circulating, and the names on the list include more than a few Columbus bigshots, among them attorney Michael Colley, chairman of the Franklin County Republican Party, Redman, a former member of OSU's board of trustees, and a myriad of attorneys and developers.

Barney blamed City Attorney Ron O'Brien that cases dating back to 1987 hadn't been resolved. He implied that enforcement requests had been sent on to O'Brien by Recreation and Parks and got stuck in O'Brien's office. Suburban News Publications columnist Dick Campbell accused O'Brien of being "timorous."

O'Brien was furious. "I don't have any problem with anybody as long as they're not trying to blame me for not doing something I haven't been asked to do," he says. He wasn't asked to prosecute anyone, he insists. Indeed, on Oct. 11, a month before Barney voiced his complaint about O'Brien, O'Brien had sent him a memo on enforcement, asking for direction on some of the reported violations and outlining procedures Barney's staff should use to request prosecutions from the city attorney's office. He pointed out that the list of 150 violations included "no instructions or requests."

"Therefore, please advise what the Department's purpose was in forwarding that list to this office," he wrote.

Barney says now that O'Brien has been doing "a fabulous job," that he and O'Brien have "a fine working relationship" and that the whole thing was a misunderstanding, mainly on the part of some members of the Waterways Task Force, a mixed group of environmentalists and city bureaucrats set up to help formulate policy for city lands along the reservoirs. Tree cuttings on city property, Barney vows, will be "pursued" in the future.

One member of the Waterways Task Force says that O'Brien, who had been uncooperative, suddenly came alive after the negative newspaper exposure and sent a lawyer to the task force meetings. This accusation doesn't sit well with O'Brien either. "We have always been available to that task force," he says. As to the charge that he didn't return phone calls to the task force, he snaps back, "Unfortunately, I am one person who doesn't have a press liaison, and every one of these stupid little pink slips I get, I return all these calls. I return every phone call I get."

The flap may have done some good. The attorney O'Brien assigned to the task force, Debbie Hoffman, almost immediately came up with some of the probate court records that supposedly had been burned but really were at the Ohio Historical Society. At first glance, she said, the records seemed to show without question what the city has said all along: It owns the land. "There isn't as much question as to ownership as some people would believe," says Doutt of the water division.

"O'Brien was furious. 'I don't have any problem with anybody as long as they're not trying to blame me for not doing something I haven't been asked to do,' he says."

Redman's letter didn't attempt to define how much land belonged in each of his three categories, but according to Hoffman, only about 20 percent of the total property along Griggs ever could have been termed "in dispute," and if some is owned outright by residents (Class 3), "I've not found any," she says. If the probate records bear up under examination, the dispute may be over for good.

Having proved it owns the land, will the city sell it for $5,000 an acre or a price? Not if you believe Barney, O'Brien or Doutt, who all talk of the idea as a non-starter.

"The water division, which owns the land, has indicated to us they're not closed to sell," says Barney cheerfully. In fact, when John Doutt heard about the price, he thought maybe they'd [the water division would] want to buy additional land. At $5,000 an acre, they'd take what they can get."

Doutt says, "From the Division of Water standpoint, we would not want any of the lands we currently own around the reservoirs to be sold."

"I guess I'm with the majority," Mayor Greg Lashutka said on the day he was sworn in.

A draft policy for dealing with the land—including enforcement procedures—is circulating. O'Brien says that the city will "hopefully promulgate" it. Thomas Stockdale, the chairman of the Waterways Task Force, who once said to himself, "Holy mackerel, this is an insurmountable task," now says, "I'm as optimistic as I've been about this for some time."

O'Brien says he thinks the main problem will be "How do you address what's already there?" He means, how will the city deal with what it allowed people to get away with before there was a policy?

"They're not writing on a clean slate," O'Brien goes on. "The bottom line legally—if Mel Dodge wrote a letter and said, 'You can do this,' and he didn't have the authority by code to permit it, that's legally of no consequence for the property owner." That is, it's not a legal argument the owner can make. But Recreation and Parks has to take into account the moral argument. "The department has to look at it from a what's-right-what's-wrong-what's-fair standpoint."

So the Griggs Monster may be napping, or hibernating, at the bottom of the reservoir for the time being. But he still has his fangs. "It wasn't intended to be an inflammatory suggestion," protests SRA attorney Michael Minister about Redman's letter. "It may have been received that way, and that's regrettable because our whole purpose would be to keep the issue from being as inflammatory as it's been in the past."

Inflammatory? Minister may need a fire extinguisher to deal with his case. Nothing showed the power of this issue to upset the politicians and administrators more than the ducking and covering that went on in November and December. With thorny questions still unresolved—some environmentalists want a city bike path past those swank boat docks, for Pete's sake—look for more flames from the jaws of the Griggs Monster before he is slain. ■

Emily Foster is a senior editor of Columbus Monthly.

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ART

BY JEAN P. KELLY

A new heyday for art glass

As the art world rediscovers the medium of glass, Columbus finds itself on the cutting edge.

It's a rare art movement that is kindled in a Toledo garage. And an even rarer one that catches fire in Central Ohio. But transparent, translucent or opaque, one thing is clear: Columbus is red hot about glass. It's joining Toledo and Cleveland on the cutting edge of a glass renaissance, boasting some 20 glass artists, two colleges teaching the art and a growing number of collectors willing to shell out thousands of dollars to form their own glass menageries.

"People can relate to it," says Sherrie Hawk, owner of the Riley Hawk Glass Galleries in the Short North. "It's a familiar material. We appreciate the process that went into making it; it's not something you can just go do. It's magical."

So magical, in fact, that Riley Hawk not only has survived for five years when other less-specialized galleries have fallen by the wayside, it has doubled in size. Offering museum quality work by nationally

Photographed at Riley Hawk Glass Galleries in the Short North are, from left: "Satin Pleats" by Christopher Ries, a work in clear glass that here reflects some color; "Crossroads" by Paul Manners; "Blue Descending Arc" by Harvey Littleton, considered the father of the contemporary studio art glass movement.

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known and some local contemporary glass artists—everything from paperweights to abstract sculpture—the gallery has earned a national reputation as a preeminent glass dealer. Special exhibitions at the gallery have even been known to sell out—at $20,000 to $30,000 a crack.

"We feel really good about Columbus," says Hawk, an Akron native who quit her job as a CPA to open the gallery in partnership with her parents, themselves glass collectors. "It is a young city, but we've found people very receptive."

Ohio, after all—with the history and tradition of glass manufacturers like Fostoria, Hensey and Libbey—knows glass. So perhaps it's not too surprising that a 1962 workshop in the garage of the Toledo Museum of Art gave birth to the purely artistic possibilities of glass, then primarily an industrial, utilitarian material. Together a ceramics professor from the University of Wisconsin, Harvey Littleton, and Toledo glass technician Dominick Labino devised a homemade kiln and a glass-blowing method that could be used in a small, studio setting.

"Before Littleton, the only way to create glass was in a factory, so it was dominated by factories; it was done commercially," Hawk explains. "He wanted to sculpt in glass, but it just wasn't possible then."

Littleton, now considered the father of what came to be known as the contemporary studio art glass movement, experimented with the new kiln and soon was sculpting in glass. Not long after that fateful day in Toledo, he formed at the University of Wisconsin the first-ever academic program in glass art.

"That's how artists are learning today—through universities," Hawk points out. "So these are trained artists with all the history-of-art background. They just want to use glass as their medium of choice."

Contemporary studio glassmaking came to Ohio State in the early '70s as a "guerrilla program" with makeshift facilities, recalls Robert Shay, chairman of the department of art. Now the university offers a master of fine arts degree in glass, overseen by Richard Harned, an artist widely respected for his glass constructions and installations. Approximately two trained glass artists are graduated each year, Shay says, and, "The facilities are some of the best in the country."

The glass program at Columbus College of Art and Design also started in the '70s and has grown in quality and popularity under the five-year tenure of glass artist Mark Lombard. "There's been a definite increase in enrollment," he says. "When I first got here, I had a hard time filling all my classes; now my classes are closed out."

"There is just more awareness of glass as an art medium in, I'd say, the last 10 years. And in the last five years, it's become much more visible as a medium for artists to work in," Lombard says.

No longer limited to traditional blown or hot glass methods, artists now are working glass when it is cold and warm, carving, stacking, slumping, enameling and fusing it into a seemingly limitless array of creative possibilities. Because the art is still relatively young, experimentation prevails. Some of the more inventive glass art has moved beyond "pretty," and often involves other sculptural media like stone and plaster as well.

"The artists are so much freer to create and come up with original ideas without competing with thousands of years of art history," Hawk says.

Free to create, that is, if they can round up the $20,000 or so it takes to set up and operate a glass studio. "Glassmaking is not a cheap thing to do," says James Shumate, a glass artist and president of Glass Axis, a four-year-old nonprofit organization dedicated to support of the glass arts in Columbus. That's why Glass Axis plans to build and equip a cooperative glass studio for use by trained glass artists and novice glass blowers alike.

"A resale market for contemporary glass is growing, even though the art form is less than 30 years old and most of the artists still living."

"What we are planning on, long range, is actually to teach two or three classes per week with maybe six to eight in each class. Then we would offer [studio] time slots for sale," Shumate says. Glass Axis hopes that the classes, its participation in the Artists in the Schools program and glass exhibitions will raise awareness among the general public and, of course, create a demand for the work of local glass artists.

Columbus has a way to go when it comes to supporting local artists, says Glass Axis member Mark Lombard. "Riley Hawk carries the very best work you can find," he says. "Actually, you can compare it to any gallery in the country. But what I don't find in Columbus are many galleries that carry their local glass artists' work, [those] working in more of a medium price range."

"There are a lot of people in Columbus doing glass and doing really good work," Lombard says. "And almost all of them exhibit out of the city because there is so little opportunity. There just aren't the right shops or galleries."

Yet several local glassmakers, whether they've stayed in Columbus or moved on, have managed to establish regional and national reputations. Christopher Ries, a Columbus native who received his master of fine arts degree from the University of Wisconsin as the last student of master Harvey Littleton, commands tens of thousands of dollars for his highly reflective, hand-carved and polished glass sculptures. He now divides his time between Columbus and a glass factory in Pennsylvania. Others, like Mark Lombard and wife Gloria Duncan, exhibit and sell their work widely, particularly in East Coast galleries and craft shops. But perhaps best known to collectors worldwide is the work of Robert Eickholt, produced in a studio-factory at 401 W. Town St.

Founded essentially as a one-man operation 13 years ago, Eickholt Glass has grown to an 18-furnace, 20-employee glass house that mass-produces more than 300 different items in a rainbow of colors and variations, all designed—and sometimes blown—by Eickholt himself. Highly collectible, Eickholt's paperweights, perfume bottles and vases are sold internationally to more than a thousand retail outlets—museum gift shops, department stores, jewelry stores and galleries.

As the market for art glass has grown, Eickholt says, "People are becoming a lot more sophisticated. In the early days, people were buying unsophisticated glass. They were unsophisticated buyers and we were actually pretty unsophisticated makers, too. So it all went hand in hand. As they got better, we got better."

"There really is a big demand today for good-quality work," he says. "People are really looking for unique things." Though Eickholt glass is mass-produced, "Everything is one of a kind," he guarantees. All handmade, the pieces feature seductive opalescent surfaces, 24 kt. gold leaf accents, shimmering cobalt blues, pinks and blacks.

The volume production simply means Eickholt prices are hard to beat. With the pieces ranging from $15 to $200 retail, Sherrie Hawk says, "We like to have this work because it gets people interested in glass. They can feel comfortable with spending $50. You just can't jump in at $10,000. You have to learn about it at your own pace." Because she has faith in its quality, she says she can sell it right alongside pricier pieces.

Bexley attorney Jack Beeler jumped in to glass collecting four years ago when he bought a glass sculpture from Riley Hawk as an anniversary present for his wife, Pam. Both he and Pam, a public health nurse, have been collecting ever since.

Her interest in glass began in 1978 when she crossed paths with then-struggling glass artist Christopher Ries. Since then, she has learned more about the medium, glass artists and the art of collecting. And, glass is a good investment, Jack says. "At the time of the stock mar-

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last crash in 1987, one of my thoughts was, 'Gee, why should I have funds that are sitting at the whim of traders on Wall Street when I can buy something tangible?' It may not be as marketable as a security is, but at least it's something I can put in my home and enjoy."

While some financial analysts claim that collectors can count on a 25 percent increase in value per year for glass artwork, Hawk prefers to say a more conservative 10 percent. One exception is the work of Christopher Ries, to which Riley Hawk dedicates half its exhibition space. "Christopher Ries's work keeps going up so quickly that when people bring the smaller pieces in and we have a waiting list for that scale, they can double their money," she says.

A resale market for contemporary glass is growing, even though the art form is less than 30 years old and most of the artists still living. Both Christie's and Sotheby's devote sections of their 20th century auctions in the decorative arts to contemporary glass. "That's real important as far as holding the value, or substantiating the value, when you can establish a secondary market," Hawk says.

Quite a few Columbus collectors are recognizing the value and appeal of top-quality glass art. Most of Riley Hawk's patrons are local, Hawk says, including 100 or so regular customers. Some are collectors of other fine arts who recognize the comparative affordability of glass.

One collector, a Columbus surgeon who through his travels visits galleries in such glass hot spots as Washington state and California, still deals exclusively with Riley Hawk. "I can get a better piece here in Columbus than I can get in New York and at a better price," he says. "Surprisingly, artists who come in to exhibit tend to think of Columbus as a backwater place. They tend to discount their prices because they are not sure if there are people here to buy it."

But people in Columbus do buy glass, and not only at Riley Hawk. "Glass does very well," reports Ginny Sanderson, manager of A Show of Hands in the Lane Avenue Shopping Center, one of two collectible art retail stores operated in Columbus by the Ohio Designer Craftsmen guild.

Will the current desire for glass cool? After all, the first heyday of art glass—with names like Tiffany, Libbey and Gallé—came to an abrupt close at the turn of the century. Yes, Eickholt acknowledges, but this fire is different, fanned as it is by ever-improving technology. "A lot of the glass today is better than it has ever been because of more scientific techniques, technology, availability of equipment and so on," he says.

"It's bigger and better all the time. I think it's got a lot more wind left." ■

Jean P. Kelly is a free-lance writer in Columbus.

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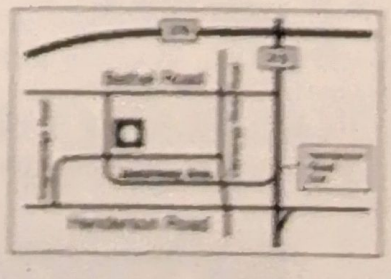

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JON CHRISTENSEN

Sadabo Café and Phnom Penh Palace

Columbus has its fair share of Oriental restaurants. But here are two like no others in town.

This is back to basics month: back to the Oriental cuisines that have done more to change the face of the Columbus restaurant scene than any other kind of cooking. The spearhead is still Chinese, with Thai a distant second, followed by Japanese and then Indian.

One of this month's featured restaurants is Japanese-inspired—yet it has no sushi or sukiyaki. The other is Cambodian, a new entry in the Oriental sweepstakes that brings still more exotic dishes to Columbus.

Sadabo Café

This is tucked away near the Ohio Center, just east of the strip that includes FiftyFive on the Boulevard and Allen O'Meara's (formerly Aristotle's). Like the others, it's inside a totally refurbished building that looks as if it used to be a warehouse.

The exposed ceilings are very high and tend to blend into the vast expanses of basic black that, together with plain white, reflect current styles in trendy bars and cafés. There is no smoke-free section.

If you want to begin with an appetizer, you might try kara-age ($3), Sadabo's version of chicken wings that are simply but effectively cooked and served with a soy dip. You also can get Sadabo's version of the filled dumplings usually called pot stickers ($3.75), here called gyoshu (more commonly, "gyoza"). The dumplings are filled with ground meats seasoned with a good dose of fresh ginger, then nicely fried after being steamed. Another hearty appetizer is the deep-fried tofu ($3.50), which is cut in cubes before deep frying, then served in a soy-based broth seasoned with dried bonito flakes. It's unusual to find tofu fried so well, and this flavorful presentation would make a fine appetizer for anyone trying to avoid meat and poultry.

The big specialty at Sadabo is called "kushi," after the wooden skewers used to hold the meats that are being char-grilled. The more standard term would be "yakitori."

certainly can't go wrong ordering a chicken kushi dinner ($9.95), which gets you three kushis' worth of boneless chunks of skewered white meat that's been lightly marinated in a soy, sake and sugar mixture before being broiled rapidly over fairly high heat. The result tastes char-grilled, but delicately so; the subtleties of the marinade aren't lost but are instead highlighted with this treatment. Also given the kushi/yakitori grilling are a couple of hunks of potato wrapped in bacon (both the bacon and the potatoes have tended to come out undercooked) and several asparagus spears that also are wrapped in bacon (more successful, although the bacon is still on the fatty side).

To make sure you don't go away hungry, a couple of heartier sides are included: A large serving of soy-seasoned boiled rice and a delicious, albeit oily, small onion "loaf," breaded and deep-fried (in the style of Damon's well-known onion loaf). Extra color comes from a

At Sadabo Café.

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couple of green beans cooked tempura-style.

Those who want their grilled chicken in a lighter setting will want to opt for the yakitori salad ($7.25). This gets you two (instead of three) skewers' worth, set over a mélange of lettuce, sliced cucumber and an occasional almond, all mixed with some deep-fried cellophane noodles and anointed with the very fine and flavorful sesame vinaigrette that is the house dressing.

All entrees include the house salad, which is composed mostly of iceberg lettuce with decorative strips of carrot and other vegetables. The best part of the house salad is the house dressing.

Non-yakitori entrees include the pine nut and garlic chicken ($8.95). A simply cooked boneless chicken breast is sprinkled with pine nuts that have been cooked in oil and garlic. It's a nice seasoning, but there isn't really enough of it to make up for the unexciting chicken. The beef bento ($4.95 at lunch) is concocted of shaved beef that has an attractive marinated

Sadabo Café

Rating: ★★★
109 Nationwide Blvd.
221-8222

Atmosphere: Trendy black and white remodeled warehouse.

Service: Very accommodating.

Recommended dishes: Gyoshu (dumplings), deep-fried tofu, chicken kushi, yakitori salad, beef bento.

Dinner price range: Appetizers $3 to $4.50; entrees $7.95 to $14.50.

Hours: Lunch 11 am to 2 pm Monday through Friday; dinner 6 to 11 pm Monday through Thursday, 6 pm to midnight Friday and Saturday; closed Sunday.

Reservations: Not always necessary.

Rating system:
★★★★★ outstanding
★★★★ very good
★★★ good
★★ satisfactory
★ mediocre
no stars poor

flavor, mild onions and mushrooms sautéed together and served with a side of angel hair pasta mixed with Russian dressing, boiled rice and a decorative slice of omelet roll. It's a lot of good-tasting food for the money.

Sadabo has not yet been able to obtain a wine license, but it does serve hard liquor and beer. The two domestic beers have plenty of character and are certainly worth a try: Anchor Steam ($2.75), which has an excellent, hearty yet not cloying flavor with a clean finish, and Samuel Adams lager ($2.75), which isn't afraid to show off the tempting bitterness of hops.

The service is accommodating to the point of allowing dinner patrons to choose the smaller portions of the lunch menu. Word has it that the two menus will be combined. On the slow nights of the week (Monday, Tuesday) be aware that the kitchen may not stand ready to fix everything listed on the dinner menu. For that matter, the restaurant may even close up early if the evening business is slow. So be sure to call ahead if you're going to be dining late or have your heart set on a particular dish.

Phnom Penh Palace

This is a rare find: A new Oriental restaurant on the far west side of Columbus. Not that it in any way resembles a palace. It's tucked away next to an Oriental grocery (owned by the same folk who run Phnom Penh) and has nine tables and a TV set. Four of the tables are on a raised platform covered by a pagodalike roof. There is no smoke-free seating. The TV usually is on during the day and sometimes at night; between it, the piped-in music and the friendly owner's ministrations, you're not likely to feel lonely here.

Most of the dishes on the extensive menu are Chinese and Thai, no doubt a concession to the economic reality of those cuisines' popularity. If you want to do some serious exploration of Cambodian dishes in addition to those listed on the menu, you should call a few hours ahead and ask the owner to whip up some off-menu items.

Cambodian cooking can be very hot and spicy. But the custom is often to let the patrons do their own "heating" of the dish, and so spicy condiments—usually various chili pastes—are served on the side in little, innocent-looking dishes. If you prefer, you can also ask your server to have your order prepared authentically hot.

The pork rolls ($2.50 for two very large ones) are truly different. Not your deep-fried Chinese egg rolls, these are almost burritolike with their wrap of steamed rice paper that encloses an adequate amount of roast pork and a surprising quantity of lettuce, cucumber, coriander leaf and other greens. You eat this room temperature dish like a burrito, dipping it into a peanut flavored light sauce and/or one of those small dishes of chili paste. The shrimp rolls ($2.75) are similar, with the addition of a little mint. These are light yet satisfying appetizers with their crunchy fresh vegetables, just the sort of food your mother would want you to eat.

If you're still in a health-minded mood, you can go on to one of the very elaborate Cambodian soups, such as pork kuy tiev ($3.50). The base is a light, nutty meat broth seasoned with scallion, coriander leaf, thin slices of liver and ground pork cake, and made hearty with lots of soft

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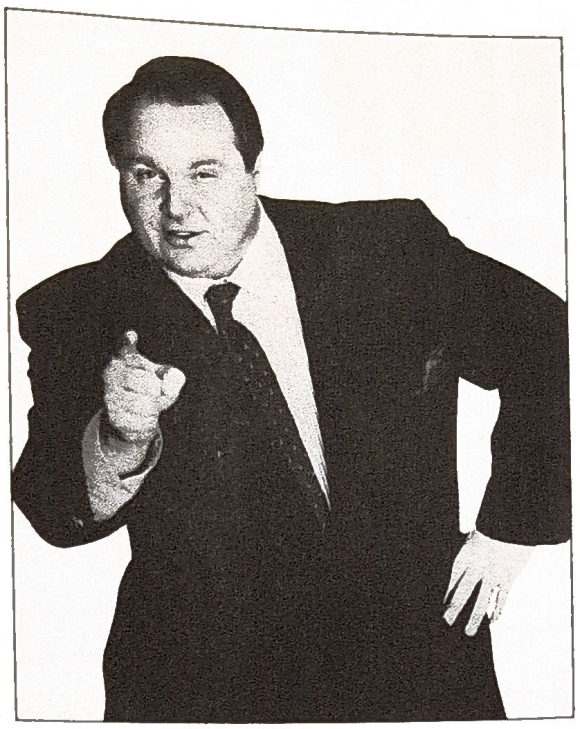

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At Phnom Penh Palace.

rice noodles. To season, you add however much you desire in the way of fresh limes, fresh bean sprouts, black pepper and sugar. Heating this one up with chili instead of black pepper apparently isn't authentic. Again, this is hearty and satisfying with a well-balanced mix of carbohydrates, greens, meat and broth. You come away from it feeling full without feeling you've done yourself damage.

If you want your rice noodles in a broth that's a lot less soupy, check out the mee char kantane ($7.50). This will get you wider noodles that are first stir-fried before being mixed with sautéed thin beef strips and broccoli seasoned with a thin brown sauce. This is presented with two condiments: A small quantity of red chili purée and a slightly larger quantity of hoisin sauce.

The same wide rice noodles are used in the Phnom Penh rice noodles ($9.50). This time, after being stir-fried they're mixed with shrimps, scallops, miniature squids, sliced bamboo shoot, black mushrooms and assorted greens. The background flavor is that of smoky hot oil from cooking the noodles, with the seafood providing the finish. Chili purée and hoisin sauce are the condiments.

For a more familiar set of seasonings, try the chicken with basil ($7.50). There's plenty of white meat stir-fried with a noticeable amount of fresh, small-leaved basil and lots of green bell pepper strips. The sauce is redolent of basil, chili pepper and a hint of coconut and however much of yet another kind of chili paste you care to add.

There's plenty to choose from at Phnom Penh in the way of dessert drinks, such as the puréed combo of cream and any of several tropical fruits ($1.50)—jackfruit, avocado or sour sop. (Order the latter if you like the taste of guava or passion fruit.) You also can get Phnom Penh coffee—made from brewed dark-roasted coffee mixed with cream and ice and sugar (79 cents). It's pungent, sweet and cold with a rich mocha flavor.

As with Sadabo, only beer and mixed drinks are available. ■

Phnom Penh Palace

Rating: ★★★
3203 Sullivant Ave.
272-6766

Atmosphere: Unpretentious, small, some Oriental bric-a-brac.

Service: Friendly and helpful.

Recommended dishes: Pork roll, shrimp roll, pork kuy tiev, Phnom Penh rice noodles, mee char kantane, Phnom Penh iced coffee.

Dinner price range: Appetizers $1.05 to $3.95; entrees $3.50 to $9.50.

Hours: 10 am to 10 pm Tuesday through Thursday, 10 am to 11 pm Friday, 9 am to 11 pm Saturday, 9 am to 9 pm Sunday; closed Monday.

Reservations: Not usually needed.

Rating system:
★★★★★ outstanding
★★★★ very good
★★★ good
★★ satisfactory
★ mediocre
no stars poor

Jon Christensen is a contributing editor of Columbus Monthly.

COLUMBUS MONTHLY'S GUIDE TO

Dining Out

The restaurants included here are recommended this month by *Columbus Monthly* for dependable food quality, service and value. The opinions represent the best judgment of the editors, and recommendations will be updated on a regular basis. Credit card notations: AE, American Express; CB, Carte Blanche; DC, Diners Club; Dis, Discover; MC, MasterCard; V, Visa. A **W** symbol indicates a restaurant spokesman has said that the restaurant is wheelchair-accessible. For a complete guide to hundreds of restaurants, see *Columbus Monthly's Restaurant Guide/1992*, available at newsstands throughout the city.

Cost estimates are based on an average for dinner for one, excluding tip and alcoholic beverages. The symbols used are as follows:

$.....inexpensive, $8 or less;
$$.....moderate, $9-$14;
$$$.....fairly expensive, $15-$19;
$$$$.....expensive, $20 or more.

One more Thai

An attractive shopping mall restaurant, **Thai Taste**, has been getting good reviews from the spicy food set. The main visual attractions are wooden Oriental umbrellas unfurled over the tables and an elaborate English sailing ship under glass. The Thai taste treats include panang nur, a curried beef dish with a coconut milk base and a spicy hot kick.

Italian corn

A staple in the Piedmont region of Italy, polenta is cornmeal boiled to a puddinglike cornmeal mush. It's showing up on some Columbus menus now, but it isn't looking like a staple. A dish that begs for embellishment, polenta brings out the creativity in chefs. The FiftyFive restaurants have offered it as a delicious appetizer sautéed with Gorgonzola cheese, shiitake mushrooms and a dry sack (sherry) cream sauce.

Something's brewing

It's taken awhile, but nonstandard coffee concoctions finally are taking hold in Columbus. One can order espresso, cappuccino, caffè latte, what-have-you without getting a blank stare. We don't know if it's now a literary trend, but **Borders** bookstore has installed a 35-seat espresso bar with a selection of sweets on the side. A place to linger with the latest P.D. James or Tom Clancy. Now, if only the car repair places and doctors's offices would follow suit.

KRISTIN R. DAUMANN

A la carte, 2333 N. High St. (northwest), 294-6783. A la carte's small menu emphasizes Slavic cuisine. The restaurant is noted for its hummus, its soups, its wonderful ways with chicken and its great pastries, especially the apple walnut cake. On Friday and Saturday there are boreks. From the well-stocked wine shop in the back, you can have a bottle served at your table for the retail price plus a small corkage fee. Open 7 days: 11 am-9:30 pm Mon-Thu, until 11 pm Fri-Sat, 5-9 pm Sun. Checks, AE, Dis, MC, V; $.

Block's Hot Bagels, 3415 E. Broad St., 235-2551, and 6115 McNaughten Centre, 863-0470 (both east). Block's bakes the bagels sold throughout the city and has two popular sites with cafeteria-style service where you can get bagels with plain or flavored cream cheeses, tuna salad, egg salad, chicken salad and on and on. Open 7 days: 6:30 am-8 pm Mon-Fri, until 9 pm Sat, until 7 pm Sun (Broad Street location open until 7:30 pm Sun). **W**; Checks; $.

Carolyn's, 489 City Park Ave. (German Village), 221-8100. One of the most highly touted restaurants in Central Ohio, Carolyn's strength is in the kitchen where chef Carolyn Claycomb creates unusual dishes that are experiences, not experiments. Almost everything is worth ordering (the menu changes daily and is posted outside), and the desserts are worth the calories. Open for dinner 5:30-10 pm Tue-Thu, until 11 pm Fri-Sat; closed Sun. MC, V; $$$$. Reservations recommended.

Clarmont, 684 S. High St. (German Village), 443-1125. Old-style steakhouse atmosphere, with a dependable menu. The Clarmont does a great job with steaks and wonderful French onion soup. Don't overlook the fresh tuna and salmon, the chicken in a clay pot, or the chopped steak with sautéed onions. Open 7 days: breakfast 7-11 am Mon-Sat; lunch 11 am-2:30 pm Mon-Thu, until 5 pm Fri-Sat; dinner 5-10 pm Mon-Tue, until 11 pm Wed-Thu, until 12:30 am Fri-Sat, 4-9 pm Sun. **W**; Checks, AE, DC, MC, V; $$$.

Cooker Bar and Grille, 1540 Bethel Rd. (northwest), 459-5114; 6193 Cleveland Ave. (northeast), 899-7000, and 5225 E. Main St. (east), 759-6700. Three extremely popular suburban restaurants that serve a trendy variety of finger foods, plus regional American dishes, Tex-Mex, various chicken recipes and good sandwiches. The drop biscuits are a must. Open 7 days: 11 am-10:30 pm Mon-Thu, until 11:30 pm Fri-Sat, until 10 pm Sun (Bethel Road location open until 10:30 pm Sun). AE, MC, V; $.

Dalt's, 140 W. Wilson Bridge Rd. (northwest), 436-9611. A stand-out in the fun-food restaurant category, the place to take the whole family for sandwiches, Tex-Mex, spicy french fries, salads and ice cream sodas. Ambiance is updated diner. Open 7 days: 11 am-midnight Mon-Thu, until 1 am Fri-Sat, 9 am-midnight Sun (brunch 10:30 am-3 pm Sat, 9 am-3 pm Sun). **W**; AE, CB, DC, Dis, MC, V; $.

Damon's, five locations. These are the premier places for barbecued ribs, barbecued

Dining Out

chicken and wonderfully grassy clusters of onion rings. The other menu items are secondary. **W**, AE, CB, DC, MC, V; $$.

Dock Street, 3939 International Gateway (west), 239-1771. An imaginative and often tasty Port Columbus eatery with some Cajun influence. It does fine things with Ohio pork, such as the Southwest pork, and highlights Ohio wine on the wine list. Save room for dessert. Open 11:30 am-11 pm Mon-Thu, until midnight Fri-Sat, 4-10 pm Sun. **W**, AE, DC, Dis, MC, V; $$.

Engine House No. 5, 121 Thurman Ave. (German Village), 443-4877. Seafood dinners here should start with Charlie's Chowder, a hearty fish soup, and move on to the large selection of fresh fish or the clambake bucket. Don't skip the rolls. The restaurant is located in a 100-year-old restored firehouse, and birthday celebrations include servers who slide down the gleaming brass fire pole. Open 7 days: lunch 11 am-4 pm Mon-Fri, dinner 4-10 pm Mon-Thu, until 11 pm Fri-Sat, until 9 pm Sun. **W**, Checks, AE, CB, DC, Dis, MC, V; $$$. Reservations recommended.

FiftyFive on the Boulevard, 55 Nationwide Blvd. (downtown), 228-5555, and **FiftyFive at Crosswoods**, 55 Hutchinson Ave. (northeast), 846-5555. Two stylish restaurants that have become the city's favorite spots for fish, and do a worthy job with just about anything else. The crabcakes always are worth ordering, as are the halibut, salmon and tuna entrees, or the justly popular pasta dishes. Each of the restaurants has slightly different hours, best bet is to call for reservations. **W**, AE, CB, DC, Dis, MC, V; $$$.

Gourmet Market/Spagio, 1295 Grandview Ave. (northwest), 486-1114. A top-flight restaurant with a menu that specializes in elegant German and Alsatian recipes. Whatever you order will be well prepared with high-quality ingredients. Spagio serves "spa" food such as gourmet pizza and pastas. In either part of the restaurant, leave room for dessert. Open for lunch 11 am-5 pm Tue-Sat; dinner 5:30-10 pm Tue-Thu, until 11 pm Fri-Sat; bistro open 11 am-10 pm Tue-Thu, until midnight Fri-Sat; closed Sun-Mon. **W**; Checks, AE, MC, V; $$$$. Reservations recommended.

Hunan House, 2350 E. Dublin-Granville Rd. (northeast), 895-3330, and **Hunan Lion**, 2000 Bethel Rd. (northwest), 459-3933. Both restaurants regularly make the lists of Central Ohioans' favorite Chinese restaurants. They turn out superior Szechwan, Mandarin and Hunan specialties, including an interesting variety of appetizers, whole fish dishes, outstanding chicken Marengo and other gourmet Chinese dishes. Open 7 days: 11:30 am-10 pm Sun-Thu, until 10:30 pm Fri-Sat. **W**; AE, CB, DC, MC, V; $$$.

Jasmine, 1080 Dublin Rd. (northwest), 486-0649. Jasmine has a nice mix of Chinese and Thai dishes. The pad Thai and hot garlic beef are deservedly popular, and both the hot and sour soup and the won-ton soup are worth ordering. Jasmine is a popular place for lunch. Open 11 am-10 pm Mon-Thu, until 11 pm Fri, 4-11 pm Sat; closed Sun. **W**; AE, MC, V; $$.

Jing Chuan Chinese Restaurant, 2680 E. Dublin-Granville Rd. (northeast), 890-0021. There is good Chinese cooking going on here. You won't go wrong with the moo shu pork, Jing Chuan shrimp, lo mein or the Peking-style green beans. The atmosphere is pleasant, somewhat formal. Open 7 days: 11:30 am-10 pm Mon-Thu, until 11 pm Fri, noon-11 pm Sat, noon-9:30 pm Sun. **W**; AE, MC, V; $$.

Katzinger's, 475 S. Third St. (German Village), 228-3354. Katzinger's is a Columbus institution. The sandwiches, whether loaded with corned beef, pastrami, smoked whitefish salad or made in one of the many combinations, merit applause. The rye bread is memorable. You can eat in the friendly confusion of the restaurant or carry out. Open 7 days; generally 8:30 am-6:30 pm. **W**; Checks; MC, V; $.

Lee Garden, 2685 Fenton Road Blvd. (northwest), 764-1525. A shopping center has also shouldn't lower expectations of very good Chinese food. Whole walleye Szechwan-style takes 20 minutes but is worth the wait. Also recommended are potstickers and moo shu pork. Open 7 days: 11:30 am-10 pm Mon-Thu, until 11 pm Fri-Sat, noon to 10 pm Sun (buffet noon-3 pm Sun). **W**; Checks, AE, DC, MC, V; $$.

Linday's, 169 E. Beck St. (German Village), 228-4343. A well-regarded bistro, Linday's maintains its reputation as one of the best restaurants in Columbus with fine cooking and service at lunch and dinner. Diners there love the gourmet pizzas as well as the pasta dishes, veal and tournedos of beef. Open 7 days: lunch 11:30 am-2:30 pm Mon-Sat; dinner 5:30-10 pm Sun-Thu, until 11 pm Fri-Sat, special late-night menu until midnight Thu-Sat. **W**; AE, DC, MC, V; $$$.

Moretti's Italian Cafe, 1447 Grandview Ave., 488-2104 (northwest). The Moretti family serves some of the best no-nonsense Italian meals in town. The cannelloni and the veal dishes are outstanding. Then again, so is the spinach lasagna. And don't pass up the homemade bread. Moretti's, with only a few tables, has a line out onto Grandview Avenue most evenings. Open 4-9 pm Mon-Thu, until 9:30 pm Fri-Sat; closed Sun. **W**, MC, V; $$.

Morton's of Chicago, Two Nationwide Plaza (downtown), 464-4442. High-priced, top-quality steaks are the specialties. They are prepared to perfection and served with especially good side dishes and desserts, including beefsteak tomatoes with blue cheese dressing, spinach with mushrooms and soufflés for two. Open 7 days: lunch 11:30 am-2:30 pm Mon-Fri; dinner 5:30-11 pm Mon-Sat, 5-10 pm Sun. **W**; AE, CB, DC, Dis, MC, V; $$$$.

Peasant on the Lane, Lane Avenue Shopping Center (northwest), 481-8189. You'll find a pleasant atmosphere and good food at reasonable prices. There usually are several fish specials and some chicken dishes, a popular veal Florentine and wonderful vegetarian stuffed zucchini. Open for lunch 11 am-3 pm Mon-Sat; light menu 3-5 pm Mon-Sat; dinner 5-9 pm Mon-Thu, until 10 pm Fri-Sat; closed Sun (except Easter and Mother's Day). **W**; Checks, AE, CB, DC, Dis, MC, V; $$. Reservations suggested.

Refectory, 1092 Bethel Rd. (northwest), 451-9774. One of Columbus's most applauded restaurants, the Refectory is located in a restored 19th-century church. Recommended dishes include a simply prepared Dover sole, stuffed veal or, frankly, whatever is on the menu and strikes your fancy. The wine list is superb. Open for dinner 5:30-10 pm Mon-Thu, until 11 pm Fri-Sat; closed Sun. **W**, AE, CB, DC, Dis, MC, V; $$$$. Make reservations.

Restaurant Japan, 1140 Kenny Center (northwest), 451-5411. Using first-class ingredients, this shopping-center restaurant specializes in sushi and sashimi, but also does a very good job with deep-fried tofu and tempura.

dinner 5-10 pm Mon-Wed, until 11 pm Fri-Sat, 9 pm Sun. **W**; Checks, AE, MC, V; $$$.

Rigsby's, 696 N. High St. (near north), 299-7988. Some of the best culinary talent in town work at Rigsby's. The frequently changing menu of American-style food with Italian overtones is full-flavored. It's one of those places where you can order at will: soups, pizzettes, pasta, veal, seafood, fabulous desserts. Rigsby's sourdough bread is outstanding. Open 11 am-3 pm Mon-Sat; closed Sun. **W**, AE, CB, DC; $$$. Reservations recommended.

Schmidt's Sausage Haus, locations. Since Schmidt's is noted for its and spicy Bahama Mama sausages, the appropriate outlet to patronize ought to be home base in German Village at 240 E. 444-6806. Schmidt's also specializes in pies and cream puffs. Open 7 days for lunch, dinner hours vary. All locations **W**; Al

Siam Oriental Restaurant, Bethel Rd. (northwest), 451-1109. The Siam provides a nice mix of Chinese and selections, and Columbusites who love cuisine recommend the curries and sate. General Tso's chicken sets the standard Central Ohio. Open 7 days: 11:30 am-10 pm Mon-Thu, until 11 pm Fri, noon-11 pm Sat, noon-9 pm Sun. **W**; AE, MC, V; $$.

Tandoori Chicken, 816 Bethel Rd. (northwest), 459-4101. The tandoori chicken is the best in town, but first get a bowl of the excellent mulligatawny soup. This also is the place for vegetarians to enjoy baked eggplant, in a dish called bengan bartha, and a fine vegetable curry. Open for lunch 11 am-2 pm Tue-Sat; dinner 5-10 pm Tue-Thu, until 10:30 pm Fri-Sat, noon-8:30 pm Sun; closed Mon. **W**; Checks, MC, V; $$.

Trattoria Roma, 1270 Morse Rd. (northeast), 888-6686. This is a very small restaurant—only 13 tables—that has been gaining a big reputation. The menu is creative and encourages experimentation. Try the homemade pastas, such as spaghetti burina or seafood ravioli. Open 7 days: dinner 5-10 pm Mon-Thu, until 11 pm Fri-Sat, until 8 pm Sun. **W**; Checks, MC, V; $$.

Tucson's Cafe, 2465 E. Dublin-Granville Rd. (northeast), 523-2000. Lively and casual, Tucson's Cafe raises Southwestern cuisine to new heights in Columbus. Try the excellent guacamole, quesadillas and tamales individually or in the fantastico combination plate. The pollo en mole rojo and fajita burritos are outstanding entrees. Open 11 am-10 pm Mon-Sat; closed Sun. **W**, AE, MC, V; $.

Worthington Inn, 649 High St., Worthington (northwest), 885-7700 or 885-2600. This restored country inn serves a modern and imaginative menu with some Mediterranean overtones. But it hasn't abandoned the stand-bys such as roast lamb or prime rib. Fine quality ingredients combine in thoughtful ways in the kitchen to make this a very good restaurant indeed. Open 7 days: lunch 11 am-3 pm daily; dinner 5:30-10 pm Mon-Thu, until 11 pm Fri-Sat, until 9 pm Sun (brunch 11 am-3 pm Sun). **W**; AE, CB, DC, Dis, MC, V; $$$.

Wyandotte Inn, 10121 Riverside Dr., Powell (northwest), 766-2433. A warm, rustic restaurant with a steak and seafood menu. Among the specialties are barbecued ribs and prime rib. Open for dinner

Bargain Bits

ANN SEREN & MAGGIE KOZELEK

SKI SALE Ski enthusiasts might find some special bargains at the Ski Shack clearance sale.

According to owner Alan Blume, Ski Shack closes down in the summer. Before this happens, he wants to clear the store in order to be ready to display next season's new, technically advanced items. Thus, in mid February—while there's still the possibility of plenty of good skiing time—the store has a big clearance. Savings during the sale are 40 to 60 percent off everything in the store. Call the Ski Shack for exact dates of the sale.

At the time we were there, Blume could not tell us what would be still in stock. Some brands they sell, however, are K-2 and Rossignol skis, Nordica and Salomon boots, clothing by Roffe, Nevica and Obermeyer.

Blume has been in the business for 15 years, and his expertise covers not only all ski equipment but also locations of ski areas and, during the season, current weather reports.

Ski Shack, Dublin Village Center (just north of 161 and west of Sawmill Road), 798-9800. Open Mon-Thu 11 am-9 pm, Fri 10 am-7 pm, Sat 10 am-5 pm, Sun noon-5 pm.

DIFFERENT VALENTINE If you're interested in something other than the traditional candy and flowers for Valentine's Day, you might like to visit **Bell, Book and Candle.**

Owner Audrey Alexander suggests that people consider giving handmade wooden hex signs by Penny Gompf. Agrarian people through the centuries have used these signs to protect home and garden and to promote health and good relations with neighbors and kin. A six-inch sign sells here for $10, and 14-inch ones are $20 to $25.

This store specializes in occult/New Age books, unusual cards, astrology and much more. A two-ounce package of ginseng or saffron sells for $2. Beeswax candles in a variety of colors are $2.25 a pair.

Bell, Book and Candle, 3276 N. High St. (just north of Como and two blocks south of East North Broadway), 262-3505. Open Mon-Fri 11 am-7 pm, Sat 11 am-8 pm, Sun noon-5 pm.

CHINA, CRYSTAL AND SILVER **Placesetting East** recently closed its retail store after 20 years, but has not gone out of business; Shindy Kaplan is still the owner.

We were told that over time as lifestyles changed, the company gradually began taking more and more orders by telephone, and fewer customers actually came to the shop. Finally the decision was made to do only telephone orders. We're told the lower overhead has resulted in a 20 to 40 percent lower price for the customer, or what the company refers to as "dishcounts."

We also were told that in the trade it always has been said that the way to a woman's heart was "through the top of the table," and Kaplan assured us that gifts still are a large part of Placesetting's business. A new service is searching out discontinued china, crystal and silver flatware. As always, monogramming for crystal stemware is available. Everyday dinnerware and stainless flatware also are part of the inventory.

Placesetting East, 866-0684. Call seven days a week, 9 am-9 pm.

MACE **Cousins Army-Navy Store** has been in business for 21 years, and recently opened an east-side store in addition to its campus location. We were told that hand-held CS Chemical Defense Weapons are purchased here not only by men for women but for themselves as well.

We saw three styles in graduated sizes and prices. The one we liked best is the smallest model, the key-case style. Keys may be attached to the ring. It is a comfortable hand fit, and is priced here at $8.95. Another style, also $8.95, is about four inches in length and looks like a small black cannister. The most expensive unit, $11.95, is about six inches in length and sprays farther. Cousins guarantees the lowest price in Columbus on these self-defense items. Store personnel also cheerfully give demonstrations for purchasers in order to make them more comfortable carrying these devices. They also give group discounts.

Cousins Army-Navy Store, 1453 N. High St. (at Eighth Avenue), 294-7293; open Mon-Sat 9 am-7 pm, Sun noon-5 pm. Cousins Army-Navy Store, 929 S. Hamilton Rd. (at East Main Street), 231-7116; open Mon-Sat 10 am-7 pm, Sun noon-5 pm. ■

Send sale and bargain suggestions two months before sale to: Bargain Bits, Columbus Monthly, 171 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus, Ohio 43215. No phone calls, please.

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Hunan Lion
GOURMET CHINESE DINING

Four-star rating:
★★★★ Excellent
Columbus Monthly
Ben Vivant, October, 1987

—Outstanding
"It's not only the city's best Chinese restaurant . . . it promises to be one of the best in the whole region."
SNP—Dining Out Ben Vivant 1987

Voted Best Chinese Restaurant
by Columbus Monthly readers 1990.

"One of the TOP 10 restaurants in Columbus."
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ARTS & CRAFTS

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FEB. 26-MARCH 1. Arts & crafts show. Westland Mall, Columbus, Ohio.

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FISHERMAN'S WHARF PRESENTS THE CRYSTAL ROOM Banquet rooms available for all occasions. Call Kari, 436-4633.

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DREAM VACATIONS—50 percent off. Free color brochure. Send $1 postage & handling to Hotel Ex-

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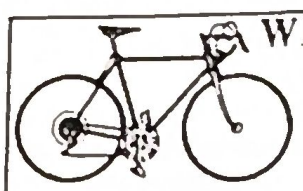

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COLUMBUS CHEM-DRY
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- Dries in one hour
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ONCE UPON A CHILD®
a children's resale shop

Bring your child's clothing, bedding, furniture and more and receive instant cash!*... No consignment waiting... Great selection... Shop... Sell...& Save!

Hours: Mon thru Sat. 10 - 6 PM

* Items must be clean, in good condition and current style pieces

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ORGANIZED CLOSETS—We MAXIMIZE your closet space. Stop by our store at 384 Morrison Rd. or call

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GOURMET COFFEE. BEANS OR GRO HOME OR OFFICE. 889-0128.

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FORTY ACRES, gorgeous timber, spectacular views, secluded, abundant wildlife, unique location. Only $29,000. Tom, (303) 695-8124.

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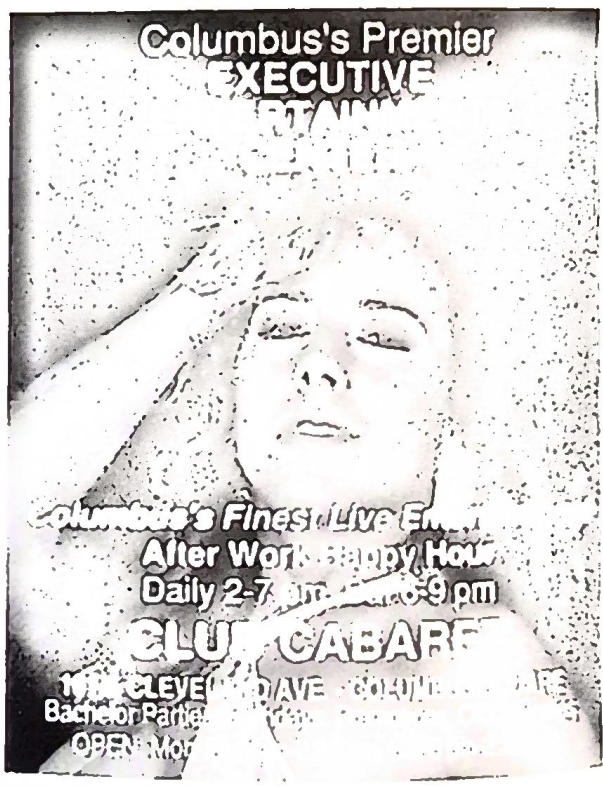
GOOD VIBRATIONS—DJs—Great music for all occasions. Vast selection Weddings, company parties, reunions etc. Herb, Vikki, 927-1858.



ESCAPE/RESORT RENTALS

NUDE SUNBATHING

Information provided to families and couples interested in social nudism. Facilities include pool, sauna, hot tub, camping, fishing, volleyball.

Call (513) 385-4189 For Information

KEY WEST tropical island. Southernmost point in U.S. Private courtyard with cottage and pool. Just for two. Walk to beach. Affordable. Driest city in Florida. Trent golf course available. Marjorie Bradburn, 1405 Second St., Key West, Florida 33040. (305) 294-5283.

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Intimate Companions

Feeling in the mood for excitement with an alluring new escort or companion with a sensitive companion? Call us for the ultimate in tastefully and personable young ladies who have the romance special for you. Dates by the hour. The evening or for dinner dates. Friendly consultants on duty to give you a profile of available models and discuss your personal needs and fantasies. 100% Confidential

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Where beauty, sophistication, class and fantasies meet. We cater to the man that is discriminating and insists on only the finest companion.

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Confidentiality Assured
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CBR Real Estate Salesperson of the Year for 1991
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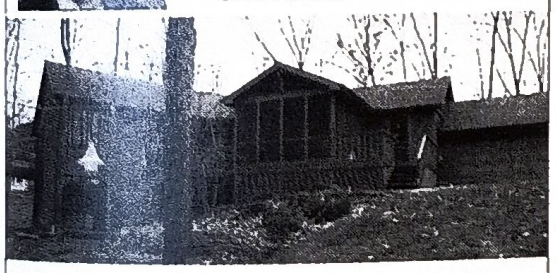
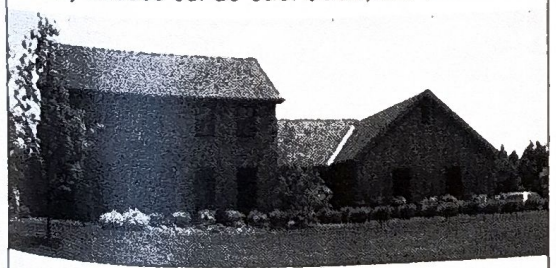


THE PRESTIGIOUS RETREAT

This spectacular contemporary shows like a model. Open floor plan with large rooms and walls of windows. 4 bedrooms, 2½ baths all on a totally wooded cul-de-sac. $365,000-A1



WOODS OF DUBLIN

Custom built by Marshall, this executive family home offers screened porch, 4+ bedrooms, 3½ baths, den, living room, dining room and special touches throughout. Rests on a unique, ¾-acre corner lot. $308,000. WI5581-AL

Barbara Lach, CRS, GRI
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On a private street sits this custom hillside contemporary with all the features, space and quality you would expect for $389,900.

HILLSIDE HEAVEN

Magnificent view of rolling land and peaceful Olentangy River! 4 bedrooms, 3½ baths, luxury and quality abound, five acres. $300s.

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More than 7,000 square feet of space on 2½ acres. Professionally decorated to take your breath away, yet offer total comfort. $695,000.

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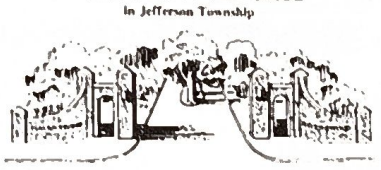
HAVENSWOOD
In Jefferson Township



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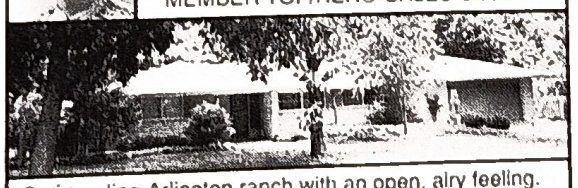

Outstanding Arlington ranch with an open, airy feeling. Floor-to-ceiling stone fireplace in the 26-foot living room plus a second fireplace in the family room, which opens to a large screened porch. Three very spacious bedrooms, 2½ baths. First-floor utility. Yes, there is a basement and a two-car garage. Many amenities. Priced at $189,000. Immediate possession.
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POOR OLD PEDDLER'S CARPET BARN—Rolls, remnants, Oriental rugs, carpet tiles, ceramic tiles and wood flooring. Prices to fit your pocketbook! As seen in Bargain Bits. 837-8597.

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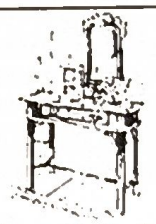
MAJOR BRANDS OF FURNITURE at tremendous savings. Call or write LOFTIN-BLACK Furniture Company, 111 Sedgehill Dr., Thomasville, N.C. 27360. Telephone (800) 334-7398. Nationwide home delivery.



BUY DIRECT—from North Carolina, furniture capital of the world. Savings up to 45%. Over 400 manufacturers. Uses in-home delivery service nationwide. Homeway Furniture, 3278 Morse Rd., Columbus, in the Chateau Morse Plaza, (614) 476-4919.

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LICENSED MASSAGE THERAPY. Near I-270 and Hilliard-Rome Rd. Marie Williams, AMTA member. 876-0217.

MASSAGE THERAPISTS—Near downtown in German Village. Gretchen Baker, 221-4949.

THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE—Anne Hartley, licensed. Near I-270 and E. Broad. 755-9424.

LICENSED MASSAGE THERAPIST—Near 270 and Morse Road. Deborah Link, 476-5072.

THE MASSAGE HEALTH CENTER—Therapeutic, sports massage, steam, whirlpool, shower, gift certificates. Rick Kirschner, AMTA member, and Linda Fuhrer, 863-0073.

INFORMATION

UNDERSTANDING YOUR VCR—Send name, address and $3 to: VCR, P.O. Box 30793, Gahanna, Ohio 43230. (614) 475-4459.

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DECORATOR DRAPERY, SLIPCOVER AND UPHOLSTERY FABRICS—Ohio's largest selection at the lowest prices. DECOR FABRICS, 1254 Morse Rd., 436-4998.

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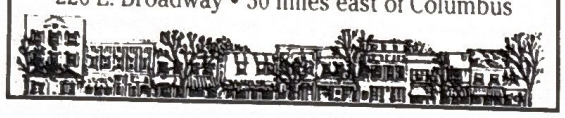

VICTORIA'S OLDE TYME DELI & SIDEWALK CAFE. Super sandwiches. Divine desserts. Frozen yogurt. Sunday brunch. 134 E. Broadway, (614) 587-0322.

PRIMROSE COTTAGE ARTISANS—1806 Columbus Rd., Granville, (614) 587-ARTS. Tue-Sat 10 am-5 pm, Sun noon-5 pm. Antiques and exquisitely handcrafted wares.

LANCASTER

STUDIO B CUSTOM FRAMING—The best framing in Columbus comes from Lancaster. 140 W. Main St., 1-653-8424.

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POWELL

DOUBLE CROSS. Counted thread supplies and classes. 147 W. Olentangy St., 761-9406.

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DOOLEY & COMPANY REALTORS. Your midtown real estate specialists. 297-8600.

RILEY HAWK GALLERIES. Representing nationally known glass artists. 642 N. High St., 228-6554.

NAME THAT TOON—Original animation art. Production cels, drawings, limited editions. Will Vinton (California Raisins) Claymation Sculptures. 8 E. Lincoln, 291-5000.

UPPER ARLINGTON

THE PEWTER GOOSE. A distinctive selection of home accessories and gifts with an English flavor. 2108 Arlington Ave. 486-6118.

UPTOWN WESTERVILLE

The Blue Goose
♥ Exclusive OSU Cat's Meow
♥ North American Bears
♥ Sarah's Attic & Lizzie High®
♥ Valentine Gifts

Monday-Saturday 10 am-5 pm
Wednesday until 9 pm
29 W. Main St.
890-0081

PRISCILLA'S DOLL HOUSE—5 S. West St. Full-lin miniature shop/bed and breakfast. Closed Sun.-Mo 882-3910.

My Cousin's Closet NOW OPEN!
Resale Home Decorations on Consignment
No appointment necessary
Owners: Chris Callahan, Sharon Meyer
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Monday-Saturday 10 am-6 pm • 899-6110

Columbus Monthly Classified Order Form
(614) 464-4567

I enclose $ _____ for _____ words at $2 per word per month (minimum 10 words).
☐ Repeat my ad for 3 months; I have deducted 10%.
☐ Repeat my ad for 6 months; I have deducted 15%.
☐ Repeat my ad for 12 months; I have deducted 20%.
☐ I want to rent a numbered box. I have enclosed an additional $15 per month.

Total enclosed: $ _____ (check or money order—do not mail cash.)
Charge to: ☐ Visa
Charge to: ☐ MasterCard Account # _____ Expires _____

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE (9-5 weekdays) _____ SIGNATURE _____
MAIL FORM TO: Classified Ad Manager, Columbus Monthly, 171 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus, Ohio 43215

Classified line ads are $2 per word, 10-word minimum. Box numbers and telephone numbers count as two words. A 10% discount will be allowed for ads repeated 3 times; 15% for ads repeated 6 times; 20% for ads repeated 12 consecutive months. All classifieds must be paid in advance by check or money order; ads may also be charged to your VISA or MasterCard account. Columbus Monthly box numbers are available for rental at an additional charge of $15 for each time your ad appears. Ad copy with payment must be received no later than the first of the month preceding the issue (example: May 1 for the June issue). All ads are accepted at the discretion of the publisher.
Classified Personal ads are $20 for 30 words, $1 for each additional word. Handling charge, $15. No discounts apply.
Classifed display ads are $80 per column inch (camera-ready), 1-inch minimum.
For information call the classified manager at (614) 464-4567.

Here is my ad to be run in the _____ issue(s):

Copy _____

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_____ Category desired: _____

HOME SWEET HOME INTERIORS
Specializing in custom painting, paper hanging and wallpaper removal.
"As proud of our work as you are of your home."
Bill Sutkin (614) 793-0017 BIA

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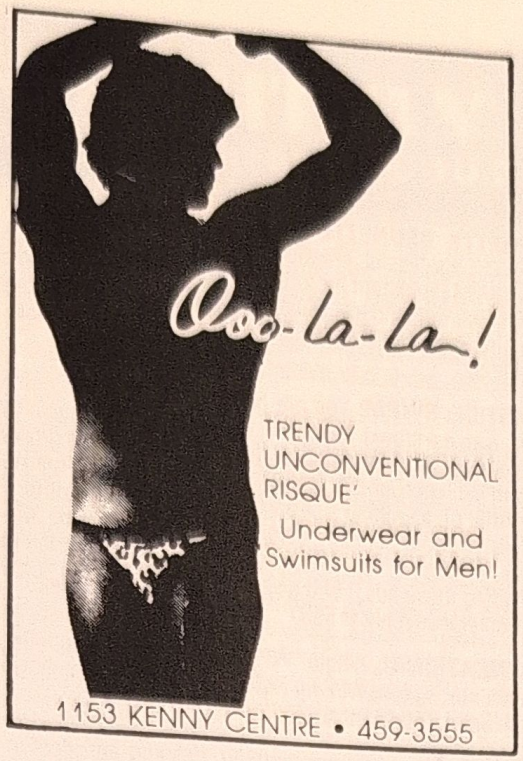

NEEDLEWORK

SEMI-ANNUAL YARN SALE. Up to 60 percent off on selected winter and summer yarns. Feb. 14-22. FORGET ME NOT NEEDLEWORKS. 20 N. State St., Westerville, (614) 882-4288.

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◆ PET BUTLER ◆
Dog Waste Removal Service
$5/week for one dog
$2.50/each extra dog
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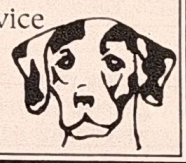

PSYCHIC SERVICES

ASTROLOGY CHARTS. The best birth charts you've ever seen. Twenty-one to 28 pages about you: your outer-self, your inner-self, your romantic side, how you help yourself and how you hurt yourself. Great for yourself or as a gift. Mailed to any address, $50 + $2 shipping and handling. Full Moon Lunatics, 846-5238

PSYCHIC CONSULTANTS—Kay Frain and Jacqueline Hearsum as heard on WTVN. Jean Innis, Astrologer. COLUMBUS PSYCHIC AWARENESS CENTER. Please call for an appointment. 488-5507.

ROOFING

ABLE ROOFING—444-ROOF. Ten percent off up to $500. Call now.

ROOMMATES

ROOMMATE SEARCH—Fast and dependable. Locations: North, east, south and west. (614) 882-1668.

SHOE REPAIR

KINGSDALE SHOE, LUGGAGE REPAIR—Service, dye work. Kingsdale Shopping Center, 451-1543.

SPORTS EQUIPMENT

CALIFORNIA'S HOTTEST new toy. New form of transportation, GO-PED. It looks like a scooter and is easier to ride than a bicycle. 100 mpg, weighs 22 lbs., goes 20 mph and has a 400-pound capacity. Nothing else is even close to this much fun! $499. Call today (813) 526-0800 or FAX (813) 576-5442 for more information.

TABLE PADS

ANY SIZE TABLE $29.95. Leaves additional. Free measurements. Regal Pad Company, 443-4100, 10 am-6 pm.

TRAINS

WANTED: AMERICAN FLYER TRAINS, accessories and equipment; erector sets. Cash paid. Jim, 847-1545, evenings.

VALENTINE GETAWAYS

ROMANTIC RETREAT—1840 mansion, bedroom fireplaces. Fireside Inn, Circleville, (614) 474-6640.

SWEETHEART VILLAS—Heart-shaped whirlpools, waterbeds, fireplaces. Brochure, (800) 223-6264.

SPEND A NIGHT IN A CASTLE! Victorian romance, private baths. (800) 477-1541.

WATCHES

VINTAGE & MODERN WATCHES bought and sold. Rolex, Patek Philippe, Omega etc. Working or not. 294-4514.

WEDDINGS

WEDDING MUSIC—Artistically tailored for all tastes. 267-6678 or 237-5309.

Classified Ads
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COLUMBUS MONTHLY PERSONALS

Call 1-900-370-2063 to respond to Personal Call® ads.

PERSONALS

THREE WAYS TO RESPOND TO COLUMBUS MONTHLY PERSONAL ADS

1. **By phone**. You can respond to any Columbus Monthly ad that has a four-digit box number (EXAMPLE ☎5999) by calling 1-900-370-2063 @ $1 per minute.
2. **By mail.** You can respond by addressing your envelope to Columbus Monthly Personal Ads, 171 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus, Ohio 43215. Indicate the box number in the lower left-hand corner of the envelope. All replies are forwarded to advertisers twice a week. (Please use a #10 business envelope.)
3. Both by mail and by phone.

KEY

S—Single	**W**—White
D—Divorced	**B**—Black
M—Male	**O**—Oriental
F—Female	**P**—Professional
G—Gay	**J**—Jewish

GREAT EXPECTATIONS? DWPF, sensual, perky, attractive, petite, well-proportioned, long-haired brunette, very young-looking 40 and ready for monogamous best friend and lover. Seeking WPM: attractive, athletic, sincere. Ditto? ☎ 5557

HANDSOME, VERY WELL EDUCATED, gentle, successful, SWPM (35 but look younger), 6', 160 lbs., is wanting a serious relationship with a very attractive, slim, young-looking, female bookworm. Photo appreciated. ☎ 5549

DOWN-TO-EARTH DOG LOVER IN JEANS. SWPF, 30s, looking for fun and love, possibly leading to serious relationship. Bright, sensitive, athletic, attractive, slim. Enjoy music, animals, individual sports, "playing artist," laughing, casual occasions, outdoors. Most comfortable in jeans, but occasionally like to play dress-up. Seeking male nonsmoker, 20s-40s, sensitive, intelligent, gentle, affectionate, emotionally open, growth-oriented, able to communicate. Prefer note and phone number. Photo appreciated. ☎ 5517

DEAR JUDY—Summer '89, Olentangy Caverns, Put-in-Bay; pianist, Christian mother of three. Saw you last at CATS performance. Write or contact me. Take care. D. ☎ 5528

MYSTICAL BLEND OF POSITIVE KARMA and spontaneous accord. Interests: walks to warm blankets, chocolate to clowns. GWPF seeks heart's desire, RSVP. Is it me and you in '92? ☎ 5550

SMART LADY, 46, would like to meet unmarried gentleman who enjoys classical and pop, a positive attitude and Sunday brunch. Life is short. Sharing is more fun than alone. ☎ 5556

START THE NEW YEAR with an exciting adventure. Explore the possibility of having a warm, caring, honest, educated, attractive woman with whom to share your life. SWPF, 5'8", 41, blond, blue eyes, weight proportionate, wishes to meet S/DWPM. This hidden treasure will not be a waste of a quality gentleman's time. ☎ 5490

PERSONALLY SPEAKING

ATTRACTIVE, HISPANIC MALE, 31, 5'8", 155 lbs. Enjoys jogging, dancing, movies, sports and romantic evenings at home. Would like to meet an attractive, petite female, 23-37, with similar interests. Race is of no concern. Photo and phone appreciated. ☎ 5565

GOT A CAR THAT RUNS? I'm a DWPF, 34, blond, attractive, fit, adventuresome, smart, caring and progressive. I'm looking for a S/DWM compadero (30-43) who knows himself, is funny, intelligent, successful, outgoing, attractive, fit and loves to do things and go places. ☎ 5564

NEEDS A SWEETHEART. Attractive, slim, vivacious, DWPF, 31, wants a DWPM, 28-36, active, romantic valentine. Are you happy, financially secure? If you are, then you're the valentine for me. Don't waste precious time. Call or write immediately! ☎ 5563

I WON'T DISAPPOINT A MAN who appreciates a combination of beauty and mind in a very feminine, slender body. I am elegant, sophisticated, but down-to-earth. Petite with great eyes, porcelain skin and fine features. I am more attracted to mature men with intellect, culture and appreciation of arts, science and business than money and power. Age is irrelevant, but you must be over 35, single and sincere. Please reply with a letter/phone number and address if possible. ☎ 5565

PRETTY BRUNETTE—DWF, 37, 5'7", 8-year-single, successful, creative, sensual, headstrong, seeks S/DWM, Protestant or private, committed relationship with warmth and wit. Must have social conscience, love dancing, be "mom-age compatible" and enjoy outdoors. ☎ 5562

NOTICE: SWPM You are handsome enough to catch my eye in a crowd. When we talk, I am further drawn to your own set of dynamic qualities. A relationship grows with each encounter. You are not intimidated by nor resentful of a woman's strength. We accept each other's lives, without selfishly dominating them. You are 30+ in age, at least 5' tall, and a bit hesitant to attend one's reading these ads. I will give references. Can you? Only genuine need apply. ☎ 5561

SENSATIONAL single, WPM, seeks SF, seeks slim, sensuous, single, WPF for Saturday soiree or serious affair. Send significant statistics. ☎ 5560

GWPM Prince, thirtysomething, dashing and personable, survived the dirty deeds of which Hazel and Willie rich, and seriously wonders if there are any really honest type boys out there without a Cinderella complex or an evil stepsister scrooging around. In the script for a little night music and Mister Soft. No Joan Crawford types, please. ☎ 5579

SECURE, DWPM, 50, considered attractive and fit, seeks companionship with attractive, S/DWF, 35-50, for adventure, social events and opportunity. You are also financially emotionally established, in OK, no alcohol problems. Will answer your letter, send photo. ☎ 5563

SWM, 29—5'9", 160 lbs, professional business, enjoys theatre, ballet, opera, romantic evenings. Looking for S/DWM who is interested in a very romantic relationship. ☎ 5572

EXTREMELY ELIGIBLE truly nice guy, DWPM, 29, 6', drives sports car, likes art, movies, travel, cooking, jokes and dancing. Looking for lovely, attractive DWF under 40 to make life complete. ☎ 5564

INTIMIDATE MEN? This accomplished, DWPF looking for a professional woman with independent identity. I want her like high self-esteem, a great sense of humor (or anything else that men typically look for) if you are all or any of these then this 5'7", 135 lbs, 34 yr. old, attractive, sensitive, educated, athletic and creative man is interested in sharing with you. Communication essential, social skills necessary, attractiveness a shapeliness desired. Photo. Let there be mutual interest. ☎ 5562

SWPF, ATTRACTIVE, cultured, fit, service and stimulation seeking tall, outstanding, accomplished gentleman 41-51, who is secure emotionally and financially, honest and has sound values. ☎ 5561

CHARMING, GOOD LOOKING, DWPF 32, brunette, 5'3" and shapely. Financially secure with small son and traditional values. Bright, sincere, sensitive, playful, romantic, happy, well-adjusted but hate spending nights alone. Looking for friendship/romance with financially secure, compatible, not necessarily professional, S/DWM gentleman, 25-40. Prefer letter, photo appreciated. ☎ 5560

BE MY VALENTINE—Lovely brunette lady, 40, 5'10", seeks a man, 35-45, willing to be my valentine every day of the year. If you are attractive, romantic, single and wish to spoil and be spoiled by an attractive, independent woman, send hearts and candies to ☎ 5559

DWPF, 28—I'm honest, sincere and just average. Enjoy college basketball, computers, my dogs, movies, long walks, good conversation and laughter. Looking for S/DWPM, 25-45, with similar interests for possible relationship. ☎ 5558

SWM, 43—Interested in S/DWF who remembers the road from Chenon to Saumur, Lucca to Pisa, Nara to Kyoto. Respond with note. It might be fun. ☎ 5575

SHY, LONELY, millionaire's daughter struggling on own. SWP, 40, intelligent, nice looking, would like to meet older, dedicated physician, S/WM, quiet, thoughtful, kind, caring, sense of humor. I love outdoors, long walks, reading by fireplace, occasional dinner out, museum, symphony. Friendship more important than romance. ☎ 5574

QUALITY, CHRISTIAN, DWPF, 40, 5'8", size 12, optimistic, attractive nonsmoker, seeking kind, DWPM, 35-50, who enjoys dancing, dining out, movies, theatre, walking, quiet evenings. Lasting, meaningful relationship desired. Letter appreciated. ☎ 5573

CATHOLIC, SWPM, 32—6'1", 165 lbs. I moved here from Pennsylvania and work in a small office downtown, so this may be the only way we'll ever get to meet. If you are a nonsmoking, Catholic, SWF, 24-34, who is level-headed, sincere, serious yet fun-loving, like movies, music, friends and family, and are as surprised with yourself at reading this as I am with myself at writing it, I think we should meet. ☎ 5571

SAILOR, DWPM, 45—Looking for a partner to share my passions. If you're a ship-shape adventuress who might like to cruise the Great Lakes this summer, while considering future passages, let's get acquainted before the season starts. ☎ 5570

USE THIS FORM TO PLACE YOUR

PERSONAL AD* with FREE *Personal Call®*

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Multiply by number of months ad runs _____
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Send form to: Classified Manager
Columbus Monthly
171 E. Livingston Ave.
Columbus, OH 43215

CATEGORY

Please check appropriate box for category placement.

- ☐ WOMAN SEEKING MAN
- ☐ MAN SEEKING WOMAN
- ☐ MAN SEEKING MAN
- ☐ WOMAN SEEKING WOMAN
- ☐ OTHER VARIATIONS

THIS INFORMATION IS CONFIDENTIAL.
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COLUMBUS MONTHLY PERSONALS

Call 1-900-370-2063 to respond to Personal Call® ads.

SWM, 42, 5'8", 180 lbs. Athletic, self-employed, country lifestyle, casual, Christian, musical, dog lover, volunteer, seeks friendship first, more later with WF, 28-44, slender, fit, active, upbeat, good humor, affectionate, with goals and time to have fun. Willing to work together with our faith to build the essence of life. ☎ 5572

SWPF seeks educated male companion, 57-67. Interested in spectator sports, hiking, world affairs, reading, movies, healthy living. Nonsmoker, please. ☎ 5569

SWM, 32, incarcerated, handsome. Due to be released soon! Made a mistake, have since reshaped my morals and standards. Seeks female for meaningful correspondence, possibly more. ☎ 5566

Personal Call® AD OF THE MONTH

SAILOR, DWPM, 45—Looking for a partner to share my passions. If you're a shipshape adventuress who might like to cruise the Great Lakes this summer, while considering future passages, let's get acquainted before the season starts. ☎ 5570

This Personal Call® advertiser wins dinner for two at:

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Place your Columbus Monthly Personal Ad today . . . and be eligible to win! Creativity and originality are what we're looking for. Call 464-4567 to place your ad.

READ MY LIPS—He's happy, "young" 47, S/DWPM, 5'10", striking college professor into foreign film, the "ARTS," retrievers, delis, aquatics, participant sports, family. Romantic, personable, liberal. She's S/DWPF, 28-40, 5'-5'7", a fit nonsmoker who can relate. Transplants welcome. Serious replies and photo preferred. ☎ 5567

A HEALTHY HEART in a healthy body—Valentine's Day and always! Attractive, vibrant, SWPF, 40-something, trimly petite, seeks gentleman who values spirituality, lifelong learning, affection and a monogamous relationship. You're a well-educated, eclectic liberal. Probably like Doonesbury. Sixties values, environmentally concerned. You love travel/enjoy life. Sense of humor important. I'm smiling, positive, country reared and champion the American farmer. Enjoy outdoors and cultural events. Work in suits, play in jeans. How about you? NO smokers. Kindly introduce yourself via letter. ☎ 5568

ENERGETIC, CREATIVE, HUMOROUS and healthy SWM, 32, 6',160 lbs., has a question. Would you like a social life Phil & Oprah would be interested in? If you're a SWF, energetic, fun, educated and determined that 1992 will be the best year of your life, we should meet. ☎ 5532

SINCERE, HONEST, DWPM—36, 6'1", 210 lbs; seeks companionship with S/DWPF, thirtysomething, who has and/or likes children. I like movies, dining in/out, long walks, watching TV together. Note and photo optional. ☎ 5547

WHERE ARE YOU? S/DPF, 30-41, energetic, happy, fit, many interests, romantic. Me: SWPM, good-looking, fit, 37, 6'2", blond, personality and sense of humor, romantic. I'll respond. ☎ 5579

IS "L.A. LAW'S" Stuart Markowitz single and living in Columbus? Cute, petite, SJPF, creative, energetic ("recovering workaholic") who loves the great outdoors as well as the big city; seeking outgoing, enterprising S/DPJM, 32-42, with varied interests. ☎ 5578

THE EARTH IS A GOOD PLACE FOR LOVE: DWPM, Christian, bright, athletic, tall, slender, advanced degrees, very successful and selective, seeks very slender, thin, athletic woman, 37-47, who is also bright, sensitive, caring and loving for friendship and romance. Respond with photo and letter. ☎ 5527

DWPM, 35—6', 175 lbs., good-looking nonsmoker, seeks S/DWF, 25-40, for fun times and possible serious relationship. Me: interests vary from walks in the snow, warm fires and getaway weekends to skydiving, rollerblading and occasional antique shows. Willing to be adventurous. You: friendly, attractive and slender, comfortable both casual and dressy, similar interests. Note and photo appreciated. ☎ 5394

PERFECT WOMAN WANTED. WM, 36, professional, seeks a lady on the outside, an animal on the inside for romance and relationship. Tell me why you are the perfect woman. ☎ 5546

NEW AGE BLONDE—DWPF, 5' 4",115 lbs., pretty, athletic, outgoing nonsmoker, spiritual, seeks similar, DWPM (38-50) emotionally ready for meaningful relationship. ☎ 5577

SWPM, 30s—5'5", trim, attractive and wears jeans instead of three-piece suits. I'm very open-minded, liberal, somewhat unconventional, warm, and like a good sense of humor and wit. I also enjoy old things, animals, sailing, movies, cooking, biking, auctions and going to an occasional watering hole. Would like to meet similar woman. Photo and phone number if possible. ☎ 5491

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COLUMBUS DATE CONNECTION

1-97-MATCH*
1-976-2824
**$1.00 per minute, $2.00 first minute*

FINALE

Continued from page 88

anymore, that life's small details will go more smoothly, that I'll be able to throw away napkins and matchbooks, without fear of losing another friend.

I know better. I know exactly how it will happen. First it's the addresses. Then it's spreadsheets and balance sheets. The day will come when I'll know exactly how much money I have in the bank, and how much will be there six months into the future. I'll know what I ate and what it did to me. I'll know when to get my hair cut. I'll know when to call to make sure that I do.

Slowly, thread by thread, the carefully constructed, years-old fabric of my disorganization will begin to disintegrate, until I'm sitting stark naked in a world of things I know where to find and when to do.

And that's when the cravings will set in. It may take a year. It may take longer. But sooner or later, as my mind empties itself of years of things it was trying very hard to remember, the boredom will start.

And I'll have to have a flight simulator.

Check it out. That's LaGuardia. Want to go to Paris? ■

Margaret Newkirk is a staff writer for Columbus Monthly.

FINALE

MARGARET NEWKIRK
DRAWING BY JEFF STAHLER

A new relationship

They've been sitting on my desk at home a few weeks now—a computer, a printer, a little pile of computer paper.

The computer came as a Christmas present. It wasn't a complete surprise; I had enough of an idea, in fact, that I cleared a few feet of accumulated paper and the like from my desk days before.

That action should have been my first clue that things were about to change beyond my control. But I was greedy then. I wasn't paying attention.

It got worse. To date, the computer, printer and little pile of computer paper have done the following:

• Collected some addresses previously scrawled on two napkins and an envelope and pinned to a bulletin board.

• Saved a recipe previously written, very small and in full, on the back of a 1989 W-2 form I never sent in.

• Written a letter.

It was that last, finally, that sounded the alarm.

I wrote my last letter in 1978. I don't write letters. I *call*, if I remember where I wrote the number. It's a habit that has kept my long-distance friendships at a manageable number—or a habit of some kind, anyway.

The breaking of habits shouldn't be taken lightly.

The day the letter went out, it all became clear. A wave of uncontrollable organization was headed my way and I wasn't going to be able to stop it. Where would it end? Would my checkbook balance? Would I know when my bills were due? Was life as I knew it—or, sometimes, forgot it—about to end?

So-called friends didn't help. They only had horror stories. A colleague told of his wife and her computerized diet program. It keeps track of what you eat and what you drink and it tells you what to eat next and how many vitamins you're missing and it knows when you're lying.

I groaned.

Computers and I have always had a rocky relationship. By always, I mean not very long. I was 28 the year I first touched a computer. I'd survived college without one, survived six years working without one, and had just moved from Memphis to Columbus, without one.

That's when I met Bob and his home computer. They were housemates, of each other and of mine.

Bob was the first person I knew—but not the last—who lived his life out of a computer. His bills were in there bouncing around somewhere. So were his letters and his addresses and his budget and work papers. So was my personal favorite—the flight simulator. "Check this out," he'd say, punching keys. "This is LaGuardia. Want to go to Paris now?"

I wanted to go back to Memphis.

Every month, on the 30th or 31st, Bob's computer spat out a group house balance sheet—who owed whom for what. Every month, on principle, I'd say it was wrong. It was all too neat for my tastes and I hated both him and it for it. When the day came that Bob offered to teach me how to use the thing, I just shook my head. I had a life, or intended to soon.

It wasn't to be. Bob was one of those people who likes to teach, and I was a sitting duck. One day, there I was, parked sullenly in front of the computer, poking one carefully instructed key after another. I was not gracious.

To say I've remained that suspicious would be a lie. Bob became a good friend, in time. I got a lot more open-minded about computers almost immediately, after discovering that they were obsession-friendly. I'd been drafting a nasty letter in my head for weeks, one of those tomes nobody ever sends anyway. By month's end, I'd drafted close to 80 computerized versions of my never-sent letter and filled up my very first disk.

And I had a rare computer epiphany one day, when I was in grad school, the day I discovered computer-failure-as-excuse-for-missing-footnotes. It was virtually fool-proof and easily understood by college professors. I would use it often and well in the coming months.

The day I discovered it, though, was an eye-opener. The computer, the same one I'd suspected of organizational tyranny only months before, was going to help me be disorganized more effectively. The computer was covering for me.

Looking back, it was a diabolical move, almost impossibly clever. I let down my guard that day, though I didn't realize it. Computers started weaseling their way into my life and my work and into the houses of people I knew. I met people who kept their personal budgets in computers and thought nothing of it. I met someone else with a flight simulator. I didn't laugh.

Now one's gotten into my house and nothing's ever going to be the same. People say it will be better, that the little things won't be as frustrating

Continued on page 87

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